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Near East & South Asia

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Timetable for Signing of Agreement Still Uncertain

Peres To Sign for Israel

TA0109090293 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Sep 93 pp A1, 10

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar, Ori Nir, Hemi Shalev, and news agencies]

[Excerpt] Washington—Yesterday, the political echelon in Jerusalem instructed the Israeli delegation to the peace talks not to pressure the Palestinians into hastily signing the mutual recognition accord. The accord permits Israel and the PLO to agree on mutual recognition in return for a PLO declaration to stop the intifadah, abandon terrorism, and revoke the clauses in the Palestine National Charter calling for Israel's destruction. The 11th round of talks opened in Washington Tuesday [31 August].

The instructions were to allow Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres enough time to come to Washington to sign the Israeli-Palestinian agreement with a senior PLO representative, who will sign in the name of the Palestinians. A senior source in the Israeli delegation said Israel and the United States believe the accord will nevertheless be signed in Washington before the Jewish New Year unless there is a surprising development.

The senior source in the Israeli delegation said last night that while it is empowered to sign the document, the Palestinian delegation has so far shown signs of wavering, which reflects internal disputes. The delegation members from the territories are angry with the PLO leadership in Tunis for not informing them of the secret contacts which led to the agreement.

Palestinian delegation spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi said yesterday that she and her colleagues in the delegation prefer that a delegate representing the PLO signs the accord because the delegation members do not have the necessary authority. Senior sources in the Palestinian delegation said yesterday that not only did they not know about the contacts between Peres and the PLO officials and the contents of the talks, but that they had not seen a copy of the accord until yesterday morning when it was published in the Israeli press.

The Israeli delegation is therefore not spurring the Palestinians into immediately signing the document in the hope that an understanding will be reached with the PLO in the coming days, which will permit raising the level of the signatories. At the same time, Israel is urging the United States to try to expand the bilateral accord with the Palestinians to the other tracks in order to reach similar agreements with the other sides to the negotiations, especially the Syrians.

To that end, the Israeli representatives suggested that Secretary of State Warren Christopher leave for the Middle East immediately after Rosh Hashana, several days after the round of talks in Washington ends. Israeli sources in Washington reported that Secretary Christopher is considering the suggestion favorably and might come to the region, with the main aim being to try to remove the obstacles facing the Israeli-Syrian framework agreement.

A senior source in the Israeli delegation said last night that Russia expressed its readiness to apply pressure on the Arab states to support the Israeli-Palestinian accord. The Russian observer to the talks said that Russia fully supports the agreement and regards it as a highly important breakthrough.

The same source said some difficulties still exist prior the signing of the Israeli-Palestinian accord. He referred in particular to three points: the demands by the representatives from the territories that the self-government institutions be based in Jerusalem and not in Gaza and Jericho, the Palestinian demand that East Jerusalem residents be permitted to be elected to and not only vote for the self-government institutions, and their demand that the Israeli withdrawal from Jericho encompass the entire Jericho district—an area of over 300 square km—while Israel maintains that the withdrawal is only from the town itself—an area of some 25 square km. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 1 September in a page 5 report by Tzvi Gilat says that "while Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and a Foreign Ministry team were in contact with Ahmad Abu-al-'Ala', the PLO's financial adviser, on the joint document of principles, contacts were being held in July along a parallel and secret track only few people knew about. These talks were held by Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi from East Jerusalem, who served as 'Arafat's personal envoy, and Health Minister Hayim Ramon. This track was initiated by Yasir 'Arafat, who apparently wanted to make sure that the issues raised at the meetings with Peres had the backing of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin."]

'Abd-al-Shafi Refuses To Sign

TA0109172093 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] Palestinian delegation head Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi declared his refusal this evening to sign the Israeli-Palestinian agreement, because he was not a party to its formulation and because he objects to its content. Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi's remarks were in response to a question by our correspondent in Washington, Shlomo Ganor. The prevailing belief is that the agreement's signing ceremony will take place in Washington next week.

Chief Delegate Explains Refusal

TA0109182893 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Studio interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, by Ehud

Ya'ari in Washington—recorded in English with Hebrew subtitles; processed from the English]

[Text] [Ya'ari] Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, are you going to sign the declaration of principles as drafted by now?

['Abd-al-Shafi] No, I am not going to sign it, because I see this as outside the scope of the peace process that I am engaged in as the head of the Palestinian delegation and I did not participate and I was not consulted about the drafting of this agreement.

[Ya'ari] Do you object to the agreement, to the draft for the Gaza-Jericho early empowerment etc. as it stands now, as was approved by the Israeli Government?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Well, let me say this: I am the head of the Palestinian delegation involved in a peace process with clear terms of reference. And, I am engaged in this peace process as applied to the terms of reference. I consider that this agreement is outside the framework of this peace process that was initiated in Madrid. So, I don't see myself really much involved in this. However, as a Palestinian, I certainly am involved. That's why I will study this agreement and see whether it fulfills our rights as Palestinians. And, certainly, in the near future I will have a clear stand on this agreement.

Sha'th Sees More Commitment to Plan

TA0209075293 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Excerpts] The agreement of principles between Israel and the Palestinians may not be signed during the current round of talks in Washington, but this is of no importance. That was what Dr. Nabil Sha'th, the PLO's representative at the Washington talks, told IDF Radio in an interview. Sha'th asserted that the members of the Palestinian delegation were digesting the agreement reached between the two parties and were becoming increasingly committed to it. Our correspondent Udi Segal spoke with Dr. Nabil Sha'th in Washington.

[Begin recording] [Segal] In an interview to IDF Radio, Dr. Nabil Sha'th, the PLO's representative in Washington said that no serious issues would come up for discussion in the meetings between the Israeli and Palestinian delegates at the peace talks here. Everyone is waiting for the PLO and Israel to recognize each other. Such a declaration will lead to the signing of the document of principles. Not much can be done in Washington until then. [passage omitted]

Dr. Nabil Sha'th told us that although what he jokingly referred to as the PLO's secret delegation had already returned from Oslo, the contacts were continuing behind the scenes with the help of Egypt. Sha'th said that the actual signing of the document may not take place during the present round of talks; however, he does not attribute undue importance to that.

[Sha'th, in English] The sooner we get the mutual recognition, the more possible it will become in Washington. If we get the mutual recognition tomorrow, for example, then the Executive Committee can meet within two days, the Central Council can meet within four or five, and so we can catch this round. If not, we do not have to have a round, we can make just a ceremonial signature. We do not need to have a full round to make a signature.

[Segal translates above remarks and continues] Dr. Sha'th was brimming with optimism, as opposed to the members of the Palestinian delegation, including Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi who has continued to make the same kind of negative statements that have become his trademark over the previous rounds, and has attacked the documents directly and indirectly. We asked Dr. Sha'th, who has already clarified to the Palestinian delegates that this was the new situation and they had better get used to it, why there was such a large gap between his positions and those of the Palestinian delegates.

[Sha'th] It is a question of sufficient preparation. People need time to look at these agreements, digest them, understand them. I am sure this is happening now, and the delegation is growing more and more happy and more and more committed to this agreement.

[Segal] Dr. Sha'th said that since he was both a member of the PLO leadership and a member of the Palestinian delegation, he was familiar with both positions. It was a question of understanding, he said, people need time to digest the document and understand it. I am sure that the delegation is becoming increasingly committed to the agreement. As for the question of which level of officials should sign the agreement, Sha'th said that after the PLO and Israel had announced their mutual recognition, there was a possibility that Foreign Minister Peres and PLO official Faruq Qaddumi could attend the ceremony; however even if this did not happen, the status of the Palestinian delegation would change after Israel and the PLO had recognized each other, and it would officially become a PLO delegation. Meanwhile, the delegates in Washington are impatiently waiting for the declaration of mutual recognition. Until then, the talks between the Israelis and the Palestinians will continue without any results, perhaps only to maintain the momentum. [end recording]

Leaders Reportedly To Meet After Signing

NC0209064193 Paris AFP in English 0001 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, Sept 2 (AFP)—Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will meet PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat in Egypt this month after the signing of the so-called Gaza-Jericho First peace initiative, the semi-official AL-AHRAM daily said Thursday [2 September].

The paper, giving no further details about the meeting, also said preparations were underway for an Egyptian-Palestinian commission to coordinate efforts between Israel and the Palestinians after the signing.

Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) head 'Arafat held talks with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on Monday and President Husni Mubarak Tuesday.

Arab Delegates Ask Sha'th for Clarification

JN0209110693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1015 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] The Arab delegations to the Washington peace talks have asked the Palestinian delegation to clarify the contents of the secret agreement reached between the PLO and Israel.

AFP said that following a lengthy meeting between Nabil Sha'th, coordinator of the Palestinian delegation, and the Syrian, Jordanian, and Lebanese delegates last night, Jordanian chief delegate Fayiz al-Tarawinah blamed the PLO for not informing the Arabs of its secret contacts with Israel.

'Secret' Contacts Between Israel, Syria Denied

TA0109192493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] The heads of the Israeli and Syrian delegations to the peace talks denied that secret negotiations have been under way in Spain about an agreement on a withdrawal from the Golan Heights and south Lebanon. Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation, said there is no need for a secret channel of negotiations. Itamar Rabinovich, head of the Israeli delegation, noted that progress had been made in the talks with Syria and that the toughest issue—the extent of the withdrawal and the essence of peace—would be discussed tomorrow. This was reported by our correspondent Moti Amir.

Earlier, Nabil Sha'th and a senior PLO official in Amman said that Spain had for several months been hosting senior Israeli, Syrian, and Lebanese representatives discussing arrangements for a withdrawal.

Al-'Allaf Comments After 2d Day of Talks

JN0109205493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] Washington—Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the peace talks, has announced that on the second day of the current 11th round of talks, a new discussion was held with the Israeli side on the first four provisions of the Syrian document pertaining to the bases of a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli dispute. Al-'Allaf added that discussion on the document will resume tomorrow. The first part of the meeting, he said, will discuss the fourth provision of the document pertaining to security, while the second part will deal with the fifth provision pertaining to a total withdrawal from the Arab territories.

Regarding the atmosphere that prevailed in today's meeting, al- 'Allaf said that it was serious. Asked if he sensed any change in the Israeli side's position, al-'Allaf said that this will be clear when we discuss the issue of withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. Otherwise, he added, we will be repeating what we have done in the past.

Progress on Israeli-Jordanian Track Cited

TA0209053593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] Real progress was made on the Jordanian negotiations track at the second day of peace talks in Washington. Sources in the Israeli delegation assessed that within several days, it would be possible to agree on a negotiations agenda with the Jordanians. Our correspondent in Washington Moti Amir reports that last night, Eytan Ben-Tzur, who now heads the Israeli delegation, told his Jordanian counterpart Fayiz al-Tarawinah, that the withdrawal of Israeli forces in the Jericho region would not include the Jordan River bridges or their access roads. The head of the Israeli delegation promised the Jordanians they had nothing to fear from the Palestinian agreement. Israeli sources also said that Israel had agreed to examine the possibility of permitting several tens of thousands of Palestinian refugees out of the 90,000 currently in Jordan to return. This would ease things for the Jordanians, who find the refugees a heavy burden. The Jordanian representatives also asked Israel to permit them to increase their exports to the territories. The Israelis responded in the affirmative, and even handed the Jordanians a long list of tax free products. Israeli sources in Washington said that Jordan is now showing more openness and readiness to accept developments.

The members of the Palestinian delegation in Washington are displeased with the agreement with Israel. At the end of the second day of talks, Palestinian delegate Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat said that the delegates had nothing to say to the media, since the real negotiations were not taking place in Washington. Last night's meeting with the Palestinian delegation lasted approximately 90 minutes. At its conclusion, a representative of the Israeli delegation said that both delegations had decided not to issue statements to the media. Our correspondent Moti Amir has learned that during the meeting, the Israeli delegates criticized the leaders of the Palestinian delegation and Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the head of the delegation, for announcing that he would refuse to sign the agreement because he had not been a party to its formulation. The Israeli delegates told 'Abd-al-Shafi that for the past 20 months he has repeatedly called on Israel to negotiate directly with the PLO. Therefore, his present opposition to an agreement which was reached directly with the PLO is very surprising.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Interviewed on Gaza-Jericho First Plan

JN0109185093 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1732 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Interview With PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, identified by his nom de guerre Abu-'Ammar, by radio correspondent Ahmad Birru; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Birru] Abu-'Ammar, Palestinian circles have criticized the agreement reached between the PLO and Israel on self-rule in the occupied Palestinian territories. Arab circles seem to have reservations about this agreement. What is this agreement?

['Arafat] First, we take pride in the democracy existing in our Palestinian arena. Thus, it is natural to have both opposition and approval. This is a source of strength for the Palestinian leadership and for Palestinian decision-making. When I reported to the Palestine National Council [PNC] in 1991 in order to go to Madrid, the decision to join the Madrid conference was not unanimous. Some 84 percent of the PNC members voted for this decision. This means that 16 percent of the PNC members voted against it. We do not have a 99.99 percent approval.

We have a democratic arena with diverse views that ultimately seek the best interests of the cause, the people, and the homeland. The agreement is the declaration of principles for which we have fought for 22 months. We have fought for Palestinian interim self-government authority [preceding four words in English]. Throughout this period, the Israelis maintained that there were no Palestinian people or Palestinians. In this agreement, the Israelis call them the Palestinian people for the first time. The agreement also mentions the occupied territories to which Resolution 242 and 338 are applicable.

These resolutions mean withdrawal from all occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, including holy Jerusalem, occupied in 1967. This also means recognizing the Palestinian people's legitimate political rights. Is this not the agreement on whose basis we went to Madrid? The other party recognizes the Palestinian people, Resolution 242, and the fact that it will implement self-rule in all of the Palestinian territories, except for the Gaza Strip and Jericho, in which there will be a form of disengagement. Disengagement means full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza Strip and Jericho. This will be similar to the disengagement on the Syrian, Lebanese, and Egyptian fronts. Thus, there will be a form of disengagement on the Palestinian front in two areas: The Gaza area, and an area in the West Bank called the Jericho area.

[Birru] Does this mean that the Gaza-Jericho First plan is a first step?

['Arafat] A first step, but [words indistinct]. Within the framework of the agreed self-rule, the military government will withdraw from all the occupied territories. There will be a new military deployment of its forces far from the cities, villages, roads, and institutions. But in Gaza and Jericho, there will be full withdrawal. The Palestinian people's identity will be recognized. The residents of Jerusalem will take part in elections, which will take place nine months from now. They will take part in casting votes and naming candidates.

[Birru] Are you saying that the remarks made by some people to the effect that the agreement ignored or postponed the issue of Jerusalem are irrelevant?

['Arafat] The Israelis have the right to say whatever they want and we have the right to say whatever we want. There is no doubt about that. The documents we have will be the judge between us. Jerusalem will take part in the elections in terms of vote casting and nominations. What applies to other territories will apply to Jerusalem. The future of Jerusalem will be like that of Nabulus and Hebron. With respect to the refugees [of 1948], Resolution 194 applies to them. As for the evacuees [of 1967], a quadripartite Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli committee will be set up for them. Most of the evacuees are in Egypt and Jordan. Within the next two years, the committee will make arrangements and measures for the return of the evacuees in Jordan and Egypt. We will make relevant arrangements within two years. They have the full right to return. If an evacuee returns after the elections, his right will not be negated if he does not take part in the elections. He will maintain his right. This is a very important point. The agreement also stipulates recognition of the Palestinian people and the Palestinian identity.

[Birru] What about the 1948 evacuees?

['Arafat] They are refugees, not evacuees. Resolution 193 applies to the 1948 refugees: repatriation or compensation. Discussions will be held with them on their fate, starting from the third year.

[Birru] Which force will assume local authority, the Palestinian Liberation Army forces or local forces?

['Arafat] Both. Local forces will form the police force, and forces brought from outside will be called the national security forces, the national guard forces, or some other name.

[Birru] Will the agreement be a basis for the independent Palestinian state?

['Arafat] If not, what basis will it be? It will be a basis for an independent Palestinian state in accordance with the PNC resolution issued in 1974. People tend to forget. Did you forget, Ahmad? The PNC resolution issued in 1974 calls for the establishment of a national authority on any part of Palestinian soil from which Israel withdraws or which is liberated. Therefore, the national police will be established immediately after four months. After four months, the Israelis will withdraw from Gaza and Jericho. A national Palestinian authority will be established. Regarding the rest of the territories, there will be a provisional or transitional authority in them.

[Birru] What about confederation with Jordan? Will it be discussed after the establishment of an independent Palestinian state?

['Arafat] What does the PNC resolution say? It calls for the establishment of a Palestinian national authority and a Palestinian state in order to establish a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation in accordance with the free choice of the two fraternal peoples. The recent meeting with His Majesty King Husayn was held for that purpose. Seven working committees were formed. Two of them, the security, the border, and the territories committee and the economic committee began their work. There are other arrangements between us and our brothers in Jordan on all levels. I also informed his majesty the king and the Jordanian Government of the details of this agreement before it was announced. I went to Jordan to inform them. I intended to pay a visit to Damascus for that purpose, but my visit to Damascus was postponed for reasons out of my control.

I also have a long program of Arab visits to complete. In the past 48 hours, I have visited Yemen, Sudan, Egypt, and Algeria, and I also met with the brothers in Tunisia and Morocco. I also sent messages to the brothers in Iraq. Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] visited Syria and acquainted the Syrian and Lebanese brothers with the details of this agreement. I also sent messages to all the brothers in the Gulf.

[Birru] Will Abu-'Ammar visit the Gulf states?

['Arafat] I am telling you that I have sent messages to all the Gulf states. Visits will take place to some Gulf states, God willing.

[Birru] When will the agreement be signed, and who will sign it. Who will sign it for the Palestinian side, the PLO or the negotiating delegation?

['Arafat] This is under discussion now. It will be decided this week, God willing.

[Birru] What is the latest about mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO. It has been reported that there are two delegations holding talks on a formula for recognition?

['Arafat] There is a formula to exchange this. The PNC's 1988 resolution on the Palestinian state calls for a two-state solution [preceding two words in English]. This means a solution of two states. Have you forgotten 1988? Hasn't our PNC approved this, Ahmad? On which basis did we agree to negotiate in Madrid in 1991, was it not on the basis of two states?

[Birru] Let us return to the PLO. There are Palestinian sources that say that the PLO will dissolve itself, and Shim'on Peres says that the recognition of the PLO will take place after a radical change in it.

['Arafat] I want to say something: The PLO will not dissolve itself. Am I going to dissolve myself? I am the PLO chairman. What is the matter with you, Ahmad? Can someone dissolve himself? This organization is the identity of the Palestinian people.

[Birru] For example, will it take the form of a government?

['Arafat] No, the government will come. As you know, the PLO is not an agency. It is the identity of the Palestinian people. The government will come. There will be a provisional government first. But there will be a transitional government after the elections that will be held after nine months in all the Palestinian land, in Gaza, Jericho, and the remaining part of the West Bank.

[Birru] The Palestinian parties that oppose the agreement, what do you expect from them after the establishment of the local government? For example, the Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement has objected to the negotiations from the beginning?

['Arafat] I have repeatedly told them that I extend my hand to all of them. I tell them: Come, let us establish authority on this part from which Israel will withdraw. We will take the rest of the land gradually at the end of the transitional period that will begin at the end of the second year and the beginning of the third year. I tell them: It is not permissible that they reject what Shamir, Netanyahu, and Sharon reject. At least, let them not waste their time. My hand is extended to them. I tell them: Come and let us establish the national authority on this part from which Israel has withdrawn, or from which Israel will withdraw. Ahmad, isn't this the resolution that the PNC adopted in 1974? Or have people forgotten the PNC resolutions? By God, if people have forgotten, I have not forgotten the PNC resolutions. I have not forgotten the PNC resolution of 1974, nor the PNC resolutions of 1988, nor the PNC resolutions of 1991. Aren't these the resolutions that are the basis for what we are doing now? Our people will finally know the difference between good and bad: And for the scum disappears like froth cast out; while that which is for the good of mankind remains on the earth. [Koranic verse]

[Birru] Where has U.S.-Palestinian dialogue gone? It seems that the Americans agree, or support the agreement that was concluded between Israel and the PLO?

['Arafat] If we and the Israelis have reached an agreement, would it be logical for the United States to stand by and watch? Of course, it will sign the agreement. Russia will also sign the agreement. This is an agreement within the Madrid formula. The two cosponsors of the conference will sign it.

[Birru] Is it possible that the agreement between Israel and the Palestinians could be signed before reaching a comprehensive agreement with the other Arab parties?

['Arafat] Do not forget that we are not signing a comprehensive agreement, but a disengagement agreement and a declaration of principles. We are at a transition phase. The comprehensive solution will take place at the third year.

[Birru] I mean a comprehensive agreement at the current negotiations, agreements with Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan?

['Arafat] You know that things have been settled with Jordan and with Lebanon, and in Syria, differences are on simple points. Do you understand? You know that there is progress on all fronts. We were the only party that had not made progress.

[Birru] Can you give us a date for the disengagement, for the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. An approximate date?

['Arafat] Two months after the signing of the agreement, the Israelis will hand over national authority to Palestinians in Jericho and Gaza. This phase will continue for three to four months. At the same time, work will begin within the framework of the transition phase in the rest of the Palestinian territories. The Israeli military government will withdraw, and this is important, Ahmad, to be replaced by the transitional Palestinian authority. I want to say one thing: more than Gaza and Jericho, tomorrow there will be Nabulus, Hebron, Janin, Tulkarm, Qalqilyah, Tubas, and Ramallah, and do not forget another important thing; namely, that Jerusalem is the capital of our Palestinian state. If Rabin has a red line on it, I have many red lines; a Palestinian red line, an Islamic red line, an Arab red line, and a Christian red line. So, our red lines on Jerusalem are not easy. [word indistinct] is the red line on Jerusalem.

[Birru] Abu-'Ammar, are you optimistic about the future?

['Arafat] Have you ever found me not optimistic? Can you find a revolutionary who is not optimistic? Have you forgotten the difficult days of the split [in Palestinian ranks], the battles of Tripoli, and the siege of Beirut. The brother martyrs in the [Fatah] Central Committee [words indistinct] Paradise, Ahmad. Can one forget this, Ahmad?

[Birru] Can we now say that the Palestinian state is at a stone's throw away?

['Arafat] Of course. Listen, Judea and Samaria no longer exist. There is occupied Palestinian territory from which the enemy, the Israelis, will gradually withdraw immediately from Gaza and Jericho and gradually from the other areas. Who, by God, in Palestine may reject this? They have groups of Panthers [preceding word in English]. Let them encite them. Am I preventing them? Am I preventing anyone? Do not forget there have been six years of intifadah. These should not be taken lightly. Let them understand this. There are six years of intifadah. The economic situation in the West Bank is on the verge of collapse. When the Palestinian people get a chance to take a breath and score a partial victory, the entire world raises a hue and cry. Why?

[Birru] Abu-'Ammar, there is a question on the economic situation. The establishment of the local authority means expenses, and the PLO and the other Palestinian organizations suffer from a financial deficit. How will you face the future and the responsibilities you have to shoulder?

['Arafat] I would like to tell you something. I met with major Palestinian financiers last week. All of them said: We will begin before the Europeans start to pay, before the Gulf people start to pay, before the Japanese start to pay, before the Scandinavians start to pay, and before the Americans start to pay, we will be the first to pay. We are Palestinians, and the land is Palestinian. This is their land and not only mine.

[Birru] Then, you do not expect major financial and economic problems?

['Arafat] [words indistinct] Ahmad, any financial problem facing me? Ahmad, have you forgotten? Since when have we not suffered from deficits? There was only a short period after the Baghdad summit resolutions as a result of which we, Syria, and Jordan took some money; the funds that were earmarked for us, Syria, and Jordan. Before and after this, it is now 40 months that not a single cent has been received by the PLO. In spite of this, we have been resisting the waves, all the measures, and all things. The most recent temptation, Ahmad, so that our people will listen to this. The United States proposed to us something called early empowerment [preceding words in English]. Early empowerment means taking early charge of duties. This means we replace every Israeli official with a Palestinian one. Concerning this early empowerment, they said we are ready to feed it with a fund of $590 million if you accept empowerment. We did not accept it, and our people in the occupied territories did not accept it either. We told the troika that no one sells their land for money. There is no one among us, not one of us, who will give up even one grain of sand of our national soil or any inch of Holy Jerusalem.

[Birru] This means that the Palestinian local authority will be established with self-financing?

['Arafat] It will be financed by the Palestinians. They were the ones who came to me and told me: Yes, Abu-'Ammar, we will be the first to pay. This is our land, and we will invest in it. When these will pay, the others will follow suit.

I would like to conclude with the following Koranic verse: And we wished to be gracious to those who were being depressed in the land, to make them leaders in faith and make them heirs. [Koranic verse]

[Birru] Thank you, Abu-'Ammar.

'Thousands' Attend Rally

TA0109155893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] Thousands of inhabitants of Nabulus and its environs came to al-Najah University today to hear Yasir 'Arafat's congratulatory message. In a telephone call from Tunis, the PLO leader told his vast audience that the Palestinian people have the right to be liberated and get a Palestinian identity card. Those who want peace must take risks. This is a historic opportunity which must be seized, he said. This was reported by our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky.

Qaddumi Clarifies Aspects of PLO-Israel Agreement

NC0109184993 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Telephone interview held "a short while ago" with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, in Tunis, by anchorwoman Kulthum al-Sa'fi in London—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Sa'fi] A short while ago we contacted Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, in Tunis, and asked him to clarify a number of points pertaining to the Palestinian- Israeli agreement. The first of these points is the date of the signing of this agreement.

[Qaddumi] The Palestinian leaders are still studying the draft agreement because it affects the interests of all the sectors of the Palestinian people and its results will affect the present and future of our Palestinian people and the Arab area in general. Therefore, this draft agreement must be discussed by the Palestinian leadership and with the key figures and groups of the Palestinian revolution and with the Arab states, particularly Jordan, Syria, Egypt, and Lebanon, before it is approved.

[Al-Sa'fi] But some Palestinian sources said that you yourself will sign the agreement soon?

[Qaddumi] These sources are perhaps more optimistic than they should be.

[Al-Sa'fi] There are differences between Israeli and Palestinian statements regarding the return of Palestinian refugees. Has Israel agreed to the return of the refugees or just agreed to conduct negotiations for their return?

[Qaddumi] The refugees' issue is a basic one. Unless it is made completely clear that the refugees' case will be tackled according to international legitimacy, it will be impossible for us to come to an agreement.

[Al-Sa'fi] There is fear among Palestinians that the differences on the agreement with Israeli will turn into intra-Palestinian confrontations. Is this possible?

[Qaddumi] Actually, it is a very remote possibility. Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] stated yesterday that we have democracy. He toured of some Arab states, and he will continue this tour. We are eager to ensure Arab coordination.

[Al-Sa'fi] How do you imagine the situation will develop between the PLO and some of its neighbors in the area who have opposed the agreement with Israel?

[Qaddumi] We are eager to ensure that there will be no separate solution. We must reach full agreement with our brothers in Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon, in particular, and with Egypt on the political settlement. This is what we agreed upon at the beginning of the coordination among us.

Fatah Official Comments on 'Emergency' Tunis Meeting

JN0209102393 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 2 Sep 93 p 21

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has called on the Central Committee of the Palestinian Liberation Movement, Fatah, the mainstream Palestinian faction, to hold an emergency meeting in the Tunisian capital this evening. Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the Fatah Central Committee, has called a meeting of the 17-man committee. Six of the 17 members reside in Jordan. They are Salim al-Za'nun, deputy speaker of the Palestine National Council and vice chairman of the PLO Central Council; al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, Palestinian ambassador in Amman, who is now in Cairo on a private visit; 'Abbas Zaki, secretary of the higher committee for the intifadah; Umm-Jihad [Intisar al-Wazir], chairwoman of the foundation in charge of detainees, prisoners, and martyrs; Nasr Yusuf; and Muhammad Jihad.

'Abbas Zaki, member of the Fatah Central Committee and secretary of the higher committee for the intifadah, has described the meeting as one of the most important meetings of the Fatah Central Committee since it was launched in 1965. He noted that the Gaza-Jericho plan will be at the top of the meeting, which may last several days. Zaki expects a lengthy debate on the fate of the six-year old Palestinian intifadah. He stressed, however, that the intifadah will continue as long as the Israeli occupation continues.

Zaki refused to reiterate or deny that attempts and contacts are in progress to stop the intifadah. He said the intifadah is glorious and continuous; it is as immortal as the soul of martyr Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], who launched it and was martyred while making its call.

Zaki added: We support any withdrawal from our occupied territory, if this withdrawal is linked with stages of the solution and is aimed at ending occupation and settlements and maintaining Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine.

Zaki warned against Palestinian infighting, cautioning that Israeli Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq planned to end the intifadah through internal fighting and that he once said that all measures have been taken to achieve this. Zaki added that Turner, former director general of the Israeli Police, affirmed that the Israeli policemen were trained to end differences among Palestinians. He said that Israeli Prime Minister Rabin noted recently that the Palestinians will have a hot summer.

Zaki said he was surprised by the secret meetings between Fatah Central Committee officials and Israeli officials in Stockholm. He added: We were not told about these secret meetings during the Fatah Central Committee's recent meetings. He stressed that the Fatah officials who held these meetings do not serve the movement or its Central Committee, adding that they also did not depend on bylaws or principles. He said: We are surprised, because the agreement will be signed even though the Fatah Central Committee was not aware of the secret Palestinian-Israeli contacts, which we knew about only from the media.

Concluding his statement to AL-RA'Y, Zaki denied that the Gaza-Jericho plan was first presented as a major topic during meetings of the Fatah Central Committee. He said it was presented as an idea that was neither accepted nor approved. The plan was considered destructive and designed to divide the unity of the Palestinian people and territory.

Abu-Sharif Urges Israel To Recognize PLO

NC0209102593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0935 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] Tunis, 2 Sep (MENA)—Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has called on the Israeli Government to recognize the PLO, because in November 1988, through Yasir 'Arafat, it declared it recognized Israel and its right to exist and Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. It also renounced terrorism. In an exclusive statement to a MENA correspondent in Tunis, he said the PLO actually responded already to Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' statement about Israeli conditions for recognition of the PLO and that 'Arafat's declaration in 1988 can be reasserted.

Abu-Sharif said the PLO understands the Israeli Government's insistence that the PLO commit itself to conditions so that Israel can recognize it. He noted that the PLO's position on the recognition of Israel, renunciation of violence, and compliance with UN resolutions is clear for the world to see. The Palestine National Council passed a resolution in 1988 endorsing a new strategy on Israel, recognition of Resolutions 242 and 338, and the renunciation of terrorism.

Abu-Sharif emphasized that establishing peace requires courage and that the PLO deals with the peace process with an open heart and rare courage, adding: We expect Israel to respond positively to this stance. He said the PLO leadership is convinced that any progress on any Arab-Israeli track in the negotiating process means progress on the other tracks. He noted that the Israeli-Palestinian track is more complicated because it involves a transitional and final phases, whereas the other tracks involve only one phase based on withdrawal in return for normalization. He noted that there is an agreement between the PLO and the Arab brothers on constant coordination so as to establish a comprehensive peace.

Abu-Sharif said that after a Palestinian state and institutions are established, the PLO will become Palestinian parties in the new state. He stressed that based on the PNC's resolutions, the PLO will eventually seek to establish a confederation state between an independent Palestinian state and fraternal Jordan and that the confederation should stem from the voluntary choice of the fraternal Palestinian and Jordanian peoples.

Abu-Sharif called on the U.S. Administration to reestablish its ties with the PLO, because there is no logical reason to prevent this. He said: We expect urgent economic aid to the occupied land from the United States and the international community.

'Abbas: PLO, Israel Still Discussing Recognition

JN0109140593 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1220 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas, referred to by his nom de guerre Abu-Mazin, by Aghmad Birru; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Birru] Abu-Mazin, it was learned today that Israeli and Palestinian delegations left for Brussels to study the issue of mutual recognition between the two sides?

['Abbas] This is being discussed now. However, there is no delegation there. There was a delegation there that discussed these formulas. The discussion is still under way on the appropriate formula to proclaim the mutual recognition. Naturally, this may take some time.

[Birru] With respect to the dialogue between the PLO and the United States, flexible statements were made yesterday concerning the recognition, or the resumption of dialogue with the PLO. Are there signals?

['Abbas] There are strong signals. I cannot say that there are pledges, but we have strong signals that the United States will resume the relationship with the PLO and will resume negotiations with it after the mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel takes place.

[Birru] Will the agreement be signed in Washington, for example between a PLO official and....

['Abbas, interrupting] This is what is expected. We expect that the signing will take place in Washington in an official manner and under the auspices of the two cosponsors, and of course in the presence of the United Nations, and the countries that participated in Madrid so that it will be an international agreement and not a bilateral agreement between us and the Israelis. Also, we believe that the signing should take place with the other Arab brothers at the same time so that we will have a comprehensive agreement, and comprehensive signing for all the Arab parties concerned in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Comments on Plan

JN0209065193 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1940 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas, identified by his nom de guerre Abu-Mazin, by radio correspondent Ahmad Birru; from the "Today's Guest" program; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Birru] Abu-Mazin, you are the engineer of the agreement between Israel and the PLO on autonomy in the occupied Palestinian territories. You also held many meetings with Israeli officials, the last of which was the Oslo meeting with Shim'on Peres on the 20th of last month. Will there be more meetings in order to sign the agreement, especially since Shim'on Peres will visit Brussels today and then Washington. Rabin will also visit the United States. Will there be meetings between Rabin and Abu-Mazin, Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], or Qaddumi?

['Abbas] First, I want to say that the agreement that has been reached is the result of many meetings held in Europe between a Palestinian team and an Israeli team. The meetings, which began eight months ago, produced this agreement. If you ask me if I held any meetings with Shim'on Peres, until now no such meeting has been taken place between us. If an agreement is reached on the rest of the points related to Israel's recognition of the PLO, I do not think anything will then prevent holding official meetings between the Israeli foreign minister and our foreign minister or between Mr. Yitzhaq Rabin and brother Yasir 'Arafat.

[Birru] Abu-Mazin, it was learned today that Israeli and Palestinian delegations left for Brussels to study the issue of mutual recognition between the two sides.

['Abbas] This is being discussed now. However, there is no delegation there. There was a delegation there that discussed these formulas. The discussion is still under way on the appropriate formula to proclaim mutual recognition. Naturally, this may take some time. This agreement is rumored to be an agreement on Gaza and Jericho, but in reality it is not so. The agreement is far more comprehensive than the issue of Gaza and Jericho. It is about a declaration of principles that covers the entire transitional period, and links the transitional period to the final stage. The Israeli withdrawal will begin—in implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338—in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, and the Israeli forces will be redeployed throughout all the occupied Palestinian territory. It is also clear in the agreement that Palestinian territorial jurisdiction will be over the West Bank and Gaza. This agreement is between the Palestinian people and the Government of Israel.

[Birru] The United States has agreed on and welcomed the agreement. It said it had prior knowledge of the meetings and that it sponsored them. What is the role of the EC in this issue?

['Abbas] There is no doubt that when there is a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, the Israeli side briefs the United States on these talks. It is impossible to hide such a thing, because Israel always seeks the advice of the United States.

However, with regard to the EC, we say that the Norwegian Government played an effective role in sponsoring the talks that recently took place.

[Birru] When will the signing of the agreement take place? Will the signing be preceded by mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel?

['Abbas] Exactly. It will first be preceded by the recognition. The signing according to the Madrid principles will take place in Washington under the auspices of the Russian and U.S. cosponsors and with the official attendance of the PLO.

[Birru] When will this take place?

['Abbas] We cannot answer this now because issues related to the recognition are still being discussed.

[Birru] Palestinian sources said yesterday that the PLO will dissolve itself. Shim'on Peres said recognition of the PLO will take place after a change in the PLO has taken place. What will the PLO become? Will it become a national Palestinian government or a political party?

['Abbas] The PLO will not dissolve itself. These reports are baseless. The PLO has a role. This role will continue after the agreement and after it is implemented, and everything being said on this topic is groundless.

[Birru] Let us return to the agreement. The text of the agreement was published by Israel. Do you agree with what was published?

['Abbas] We believe what was published in Israel contains things that were misinterpreted. They twisted the truth. For example, they said the agreement is between Israel and the Palestinians. This is untrue. The agreement is between the Israeli and the Palestinian people. We insist on this. For a long time we have been struggling to entrench it in the international political dictionary. The Israelis also tried to put other things in a way that pleases them. We, however, are committed not to publish the agreement. When we do publish it, you will find many differences between what was published by YEDI'OT AHARONOT and the truth.

[Birru] How will the powers that will be assumed by the Palestinians in Gaza and Jericho, particularly with regard to security, be implemented in practice? Will the Palestine Liberation Army be moved to these areas from abroad? How will it practice these powers? Where will the interim Palestinian authority be headquartered? What currency will be used?

['Abbas] In accordance with the agreement with the Israelis, during the interim period, which will begin once the agreement is signed, the Israelis will be in charge of external security and we will be in charge of internal security. This means that internal security will be our responsibility. We can bring in Palestinian forces from inside or outside to fully protect internal Palestinian security. After two years, we will talk about the final stage. The other issues, such as currency, will be discussed later through secondary agreements based on this primary agreement.

[Birru] With respect to the security of the Israeli settlements, Israel says the settlements will remain as they are. Who will be in charge of the security of these settlements, the Israeli settlements, if Palestinian resistance operations against Israel continue? What will be your position?

['Abbas] The Israeli Government will be in charge of defending the settlements. But, the borders of the settlements will be discussed within the territorial jurisdiction. The fate of the settlements will be discussed after two years. Our viewpoint is known. The implementation of Resolution 242 must be comprehensive. In other words, all the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967 should return to being Palestinian. All these agreements are phased agreements. When we say withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, this does not mean withdrawal from only Gaza and Jericho. This withdrawal will be applied throughout the occupied territory, although gradually. The withdrawal will not end in Gaza and Jericho, but will continue until, as the agreement stipulates, we implement Resolution 242, not in accordance with Resolution 242. This was a very big controversial issue with the Israelis. They said that the agreement is based on 242, but we said that Resolution 242 should be implemented. This was stipulated by the agreement on the declaration of principles.

I want to say that many basic and important issues came in the agreement, such as entrenching the existence of the Palestinian people, entrenching the existence of the PLO, and entrenching the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people and their just aspirations. This means, among other things, recognizing the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. It is clear that the door will remain open for other suspended issues. It is also clear that we adhere to Jerusalem as an integral part of the Palestinian territory. We also placed the problem of the refugees on the agenda so it will be discussed after two years. It is also clear that the fate of settlements will be discussed. However, we explained to the Israeli side that when we speak about implementing Resolution 242 we clearly and frankly speak about a complete withdrawal from the Palestinian territory occupied in 1967 so that the Palestinian people will build their independent identity, and then, build a confederation with the brothers in Jordan.

[Birru] By this, do you mean the refugees of 1967, or all Palestinians in the diaspora?

['Abbas] There is a distinction in this regard. The 1967 refugees are a separate item. Their issue is simple and can be resolved quickly. This may be accomplished within this agreement. A clear provision in the agreement says they have a right to return to their land. The issue of the other refugees will be discussed after two years.

[Birru] In order to establish an interim self- government, funds must be made available. The Palestinians, particularly the PLO institutions, are facing a hard economic situation. How will self-government and the future projects be financed? Will the Arab states, especially the Gulf states, agree to provide aid? Do these states support the agreement?

['Abbas] According to my confirmed information, all the Gulf countries agree to and welcome this agreement. I do not think our brothers in the Gulf will leave us empty handed as we enter into a country whose economy is suffering from numerous problems. I believe they are interested in seeing the Palestinian people and the Palestinian economy standing on their feet. I do not think they will hesitate, not even for a minute, from providing generous aid to the Palestinian people. Furthermore, I imagine the European states and Japan will help in that respect. But, so far, these are only statements. We hope this will happen in the near future.

[Birru] It seems the agreement has brought about a division on the inter-Palestinian arena and the Palestinian-Arab arena. On the Arab arena, it is said the agreement is sponsored by Egypt, and that now there is a PLO-Egypt axis on one side, while on the other we have an axis comprising Amman, Damascus, and the Palestinian opposition organizations, particularly those based in Damascus, which have begun to use sharper language after the meeting between President al-Asad and King Husayn yesterday?

['Abbas] First, we refuse any return to Arab axes. It is unacceptable to speak of a PLO-Egypt axis. We are interested in maintaining correct, sound, and healthy ties with all our Arab brothers. I do not think our brothers in Syria or Jordan oppose or reject such an agreement. They know fully well that it is based on international terms of reference. Contacts are now under way between us to discuss this matter. As regards the Arab situation, we are careful not to take a position on one side or another. We are concerned about the unity of the Arab position and the unity of Arab ranks. If we are concerned about our relations with our brothers in Egypt, we are equally concerned about our relations with our brothers in Jordan and in Syria. They will certainly understand our the position.

As regards the Palestinian arena, you know that the position of certain organizations can be deduced beforehand. From the very beginning, they opposed the negotiations. Therefore, it is only natural for them to oppose the results we have reached. Having said that, I hope they would read carefully, or know the truth. This is a historic opportunity for our people to confirm their identity and their ability and return home. There, we can build this homeland together and start a new chapter for the Palestinian people. For the first time, they will enjoy their national independence. We are completely confident that these negotiations will conclude with the achievement of an independent state and full national independence. We will not go back on the idea of a confederation with Jordan because it is our national option and this is the decision made by our Palestine National Council sessions.

[Birru] Let's stay on the Palestinian arena. Yesterday, Gaza saw a strike, almost a general strike, to protest the agreement. Many Palestinian organizations, including Hamas, are known to have absolutely opposed the agreement and the negotiations from the very beginning. Do you expect clashes, probably armed clashes, inside the occupied territories after the implementation of the agreement and the establishment of a local Palestinian government?

['Abbas] I believe national Palestinian feelings among all Palestinians, including the opposition, will be much stronger than momentary political positions. If certain brothers object to this, I believe their opposition will remain within that context: opposition only. If they have other views, then an agreement can be reached. But, I do not believe at all that matters will reach the point of collision, because the departure of the Israeli Army from Gaza and Jericho is a gain. No one will ask: Why is the Israeli Army leaving here, or why is the Israeli Army leaving Palestinian towns? Why is a Palestinian authority taking charge of the people's affairs by itself? No one can object to all these things. Therefore, all the opponents, including Hamas, will, I believe, come up to a level of national responsibility that prevents them from sabotaging this national achievement.

[Birru] Returning to the question of mutual recognition by Israel and the PLO, can you tell us about potential meetings between leading figures from both sides?

['Abbas] Such meetings are no longer secret. There will be such meetings in order to conclude this issue, to conclude the agreement on this point. But the specific dates have not been agreed upon yet. Therefore, it could be within a week, or a little bit less or more. But, there will be meetings to finish this. Once it is completed, dialogue, or negotiations, will be directly between the PLO leadership and the Israeli Government.

[Birru] With respect to the dialogue between the PLO and the United States, flexible statements were made yesterday concerning the recognition of, or the resumption of dialogue with the PLO. Are there signals?

['Abbas] There are strong signals. I cannot say there are pledges, but we have strong signals that the United States will resume the relationship with the PLO and will resume negotiations with it after the mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel takes place.

[Birru] Will the agreement be signed in Washington, for example between a PLO official and....

['Abbas, interrupting] This is what is expected. We expect the signing will take place in Washington in an official manner, under the auspices of the two cosponsors, and, of course, in the presence of the United Nations, and the countries that participated in Madrid. It will be an international agreement, not a bilateral agreement between us and the Israelis. We believe the signing should take place with the other Arab brothers at the same time, so we will have a comprehensive agreement, and a comprehensive signing for all the Arab parties concerned in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

[Birru] So, the implementation of the agreement will not start until after agreement is reached in the negotiations between Israel and the other Arab delegations, as part of a comprehensive agreement?

['Abbas] We are committed to this. To prove this, our brothers in Jordan have concluded their agreement, and waited. We will also wait for the rest of our brothers to sign, all of us. We will sign the agreements together so no one will go ahead of the other. In the past, we used to speak of a track or a group going ahead of the others. We displayed understanding when we felt that certain progress was made on this track, but not on another. But we knew in advance that every one would sign at the same time, and we were committed to it.

I want to say one word to the people inside the occupied territories. The historic moment has started. They have major responsibilities to bear in order to take control of themselves and build their future and an independent authority and state. We tell them they should renounce their differences, and abandon small attempts to gain at the expense of others, because what they are heading toward is much bigger than that. The issue here concerns all the Palestinian people, the fate of the entire Palestinian people. This is only the starting point, from which we will, God willing, build the Palestinian state.

Al-Husayni Briefs Opposition Figures on Agreement

JN0109172893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Carried within the "With the Events" program; passages within quotation marks recoded]

[Text] In East Jerusalem, Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, met with the members of the Palestinian delegation who have not left for Washington and with representatives of organizations opposing the peace process. Our correspondent Ahmad 'Ubaydat was there and listened first to Faysal al-Husayni, who said:

"I have just briefed the Palestinian opposition on the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. I talked to the forces that exist within the PLO's framework. There will be another meeting with parties that are outside the PLO's framework, to explain this issue to them. Now, I will also explain it to other parties, including members of the Palestinian delegation who have not gone to Washington. I believe that the coming days will witness similar activities until a decision on the agreement is reached."

This is what Faysal al-Husayni stated at the Palestinian delegation's headquarters in East Jerusalem this afternoon after meeting with the leaders of the opposition to the peace process. After being briefed on the provisions of the agreement by Faysal al- Husayni, Dr. Riyad al-Maliki said:

"It is clear that we have not been briefed on the secret contacts, which began in Oslo more than one year ago, although we met with Faysal periodically to be briefed on what was going on. Therefore, he did not brief us on all the details. He concealed many basic issues from us. Therefore, I cannot believe what was said at this meeting and what was agreed upon because I have experience with the Orient House and because they concealed a great deal of information, especially what was taking place in Oslo and elsewhere."

The members of the Palestinian delegation in the territories, who were invited this afternoon to meet with Faysal al-Husayni over the agreement, also commented. Lawyer Furayh Abu-Middayn says:

"There should be a first step. Is there anything that can be finished at one time? It took us three years to retake Sinai from Israel. However, we would like to acquaint ourselves with the agreement, and when we know the details, we will decide."

What does Dr. 'Azmi al-Shu'aybi says about this agreement?

"The spirit of the agreement in general will constitute a historic turning point in the Arab-Israeli conflict, and particularly the Palestinian-Israeli conflict if it is implemented in the same spirit."

Masses Urged To Reject Gaza-Jericho Agreement

TA0109134693 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 1 Sep 93 p 2

[By Muhammad Abu-Khudayr and Zaki Abu-al-Halawah]

[Text] Dr. Riyad al-Maliki has declared that the motive that led the Israeli Government to launch a dialogue with the PLO was the fundamental change that has occurred in this organization. He noted that the PLO of today is different from that of yesterday, which we knew and defended.

Dr. al-Maliki, who was speaking at a news conference at noon yesterday in Jerusalem, said that consecutive Israeli governments absolutely refused to sit down and negotiate with the PLO because of its demand for an independent Palestinian state, with its capital Jerusalem, and the right to self-determination, in accordance with the national consensus program.

Dr. al-Maliki added that as a result of the change that the PLO has undergone, the Israeli Government agreed to sit down and sign an agreement with it, which is to be followed by mutual recognition soon.

On the issue of Gaza-Jericho First, Dr. al-Maliki reaffirmed his rejection of this plan, which he said leads to fragmenting a solution of the Palestinian problem. He considered this plan a deviation from the national consensus program and the resolutions of Palestine National Council, which always emphasizes the unity of a solution and the geographic unity of the occupied territories.

Dr. al-Maliki said: Now the PLO leadership has come out with a new interpretation that is totally inconsistent with Palestinian principles, has approved a solution that imposes fragmentation, and has accepted self-jurisdiction on scattered cantons in the occupied territories.

Dr. al-Maliki added: The PLO, in its current leadership, should know that it cannot depend on the support of the Palestinian masses in peddling this dangerous plan, because our people will reject this plan in part and parcel since it will not only abolish the Palestinian presence but also the Palestinian right to establish a state.

Dr. al-Maliki stressed the need for acting and formulating a clear strategy vis-a-vis the Gaza-Jericho plan. He noted that this strategy should rely on two basic factors: truth and information, and the masses.

Dr. al-Maliki said: We must provide real information to the masses so that they will act to defend their rights and achievements, which they gained over many years. He added that these masses have a great role in confronting the current liquidationist plan.

PFLP's Habash Reiterates Opposition to Gaza-Jericho

JN0109134393 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1215 GMT 01 Aug 93

[Text] Dr. George Habash, the secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], has announced from Damascus that by accepting the Gaza-Jericho First option Yasir 'Arafat no longer represents the Palestinian people.

Reiterating his opposition to the agreement, Habash said: We will struggle with all our strength against it.

Habash said the PFLP opposes the plan because it does not offer a solution to 3 million Palestinians who live in the diaspora, because it does not offer a solution to the Jerusalem issue, because it maintains the Jewish settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and finally because it is not in line with the international community's proposals calling for the right to repatriation and the establishment of the Palestinian state.

DFLP Official Cites 'Dangers' Posed by Agreement

JN0109122493 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 1 Sep 93 p 17

[By Riyad Mansur]

[Excerpts] Taysir Khalid [member of the PLO Executive Committee and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine] has denied that the PLO Executive Committee members were briefed on the provisions of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. Therefore, he said, they sought to obtain the text from Fatah leaders opposed to this agreement.

In a statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, Khalid disclosed the main points of the Palestinian-Israeli security agreement on Gaza and Jericho. Under the agreement, he said, there will be three crossing points on King Husayn Bridge for the areas occupied in 1967. He added that appendixes to the declaration of principles are being discussed in order to work out the details of autonomy.

He said the security agreement fixes the three crossing points as follows:

1. The first will be supervised by a Palestinian police force and an Israeli observer. This crossing point will be for the Jericho and Gaza regions.

2. The second crossing point will be supervised by an Israeli police force and a Palestinian observer. It will be in charge of traffic in the West Bank areas.

3. The third crossing point will be supervised by the Israeli police and will be devoted to traffic for tourism in Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

Khalid pointed out the dangers posed by the Palestinian-Israeli Jericho-Gaza agreement by saying:

1. It fragments territorial jurisdiction and turns the territories occupied in 1967 into Israeli cantons and protectorates over which supervision will vary according to the appendixes reached.

2. It fragments Resolution 242, and gives Israel the chance to promote its own interpretation of the aforesaid resolution at the expense of any other interpretations.

3. It strikes at inter-Arab coordination, something that could weaken the possible attainment of a comprehensive, balanced, and interconnected solution on all fronts.

4. It gives Israel the chance to ensure the implementation of an agreement on final arrangements.

5. It jeopardizes the entire Palestinian homeland, as well as neighboring Arab states.

Khalid added: The PLO Executive Committee has opposed this plan. We have affirmed that the negotiating delegation, or any other Palestinian, for that matter, is authorized to discuss any plans or proposals, such as the Gaza-Jericho plan, unless such plans are endorsed by the PLO Executive Committee.

Khalid reiterated that President 'Arafat has refused to refer this plan to the PLO Executive Committee. At the same time, he insisted there was no agreement with the Israeli Government. Any such agreement with the Israeli Government is binding to neither the PLO Executive Committee, nor to the Palestinian people.

Hamas Rejects Proposal for Meeting with 'Arafat

JN0109200893 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] In Amman, a responsible source at the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has said that the movement rejected a proposal by Arab mediators to hold a meeting between Hamas and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. The source said that the Hamas leadership rejects any agreement at the current stage so that it would not constitute a cover for the signing of the Gaza-Jericho First agreement.

Last night, 'Arafat visited Khartoum, where he met with Islamic leader Hasan al-Turabi, who previously played the role of a mediator between the PLO and Hamas.

Text of Statement Denouncing Gaza-Jericho Plan

JN0109112493 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 1 Sep 93 p 29

[Text] Amman—A large number of Palestinian figures have addressed a statement to the Palestinian Arab people, condemning the acceptance of the Gaza-Jericho First plan due to the serious dangers it poses, i.e., maintaining complete silence over settlement activities, forgetting about the Fourth Geneva Convention—which turns the occupied territories into disputed territories—not to mention the fact that Jerusalem will not be subject to self-rule arrangements, and the fact that sovereignty over the city will be viewed as a disputed issue.

The signatories to this statement said Yasir 'Arafat's order to the Palestinian delegation at the Arab-Israeli peace talks to negotiate the old Israeli proposal, which came to be known as the Gaza-Jericho First proposal, amounts to a Palestinian endorsement of more partitioning of the already partitioned Palestinian territories. They urged the use of every means to end negotiations based on the Gaza-Jericho First plan.

The following is the text of the statement, followed by a list of the signatories:

We, the undersigned, find ourselves compelled to address the Palestinian Arab people over the head of the PLO Executive Committee. The single-handedness of its chairman, Yasir 'Arafat, has become so alarming that it now holds in contempt the decisions of PLO institutions such as the Palestine National Council, the PLO Central Council, and the PLO Executive Committee. Palestinian decisions on issues that are crucial to the destiny of the Palestinian people are no longer made by Palestinian institutions. Instead, they are made by the Cairo rulers, who are squandering the Palestinian people's rights. This is being done through dictates imposed on Yasir 'Arafat and some of his aides, completely disregarding decisions of Palestinian institutions.

The 11th round of Arab-Israeli peace talks began yesterday. In the next few days, there is going to be an imminent danger posed by negotiating on the basis of the draft U.S. declaration of principles. The following is an outline of how this draft renounces Palestinian rights:

1. The draft U.S. declaration of principles maintains complete silence about Jewish settlement in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967. This means the Israeli Government has been given a free hand to continue its settlement activities, either by building new settlements, or by fattening or expanding existing settlements.

2. The draft U.S. declaration of principles makes no mention of the Fourth Geneva Convention in terms of its applicability to the occupied Palestinian territories, or of the need for Israel to comply with this convention. This gives Israel the chance to argue that the occupied Palestinian territories are disputed territories.

3. There has been a servile acceptance of the Israeli-U.S. request to exclude holy Jerusalem from the territories subject to self-government. Thus, Jerusalem is no longer considered occupied territory. Discussion of the Jerusalem issue has been relegated to final status negotiations. The dangers to the territorial unity of the occupied Palestinian territories have not been taken into account. There has been disregard for the fact that Zionist settlement activities in Jerusalem have sought to isolate the southern part of the West Bank, i.e., Hebron and Bethlehem, from the northern part of the West Bank, i.e., Ramallah, Nabulus, and Janin, by extending eastward.

4. The Palestinian leadership has resigned itself to the argument that sovereignty over the occupied territories is a disputed issue. Thus, this issue has been relegated to the final status negotiations. This runs counter to all international conventions, which stipulate that sovereignty over occupied territories is invested in the people living under occupation.

5. Yasir 'Arafat has ordered the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks to negotiate the old Israeli proposal, which came to be known as the Gaza-Jericho First option. This amounts to a Palestinian endorsement of more partitioning of Palestinian territories that have already been partitioned. This is a fragmentation of the territorial unity of the occupied territories, already fragmented by the building of Israeli settlements.

Notwithstanding its tyranny and terrorism, the Israeli Government could not subdue or control Gaza. Why, then, this contribution to the removal of this burden from the shoulders of the occupation authorities? This is a contribution that definitely means Palestinians will be slaughtering each other.

6. Dealing with the American paper as the term of reference for the negotiations on the Palestinian-Israeli track will deal a blow to the Palestinian Arab people's firm and inalienable rights represented in:

- The right to self-determination on Palestinian soil;
- The right to establish a Palestinian state on Palestinian territory with Jerusalem as its capital;
- The refugees' right to return home.

O sons and daughters of the Palestinian people: Since concessions have gone this far, we appeal to you to use every legitimate means to prevent the American paper, modified or unmodified, from being dealt with in any fashion. This and similar papers proposed by the American and Israeli sides, brokered by the Egyptian Government, are meant only to convert negotiations in the Palestinian-Israeli track into a complete abandonment of Palestinian and Arab people's legitimate rights. Accordingly, the Palestinian delegation's participation in the negotiations should be stopped or suspended.

[signed] Ibrahim Bakr; Bahjat Abu-Gharbiyah; Mustafa 'Ali al-'Ali al-Zibri, known as Abu-'Ali; 'Arafat Hijazi; Taysir Qubba'ah; Taysir Khalid; 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh; Saji Salamah; Ahmad al-Jamal; Lawyer Yusuf Hamdan; 'Abdallah Hammudah; Amin Qubba'ah; Nu'man al-Bazzari; Ahmad al-Yamani; 'Ali Qubba'ah; Ahmad Salih Muslih Abu-Hasan; Ahmad Muhammad Musa Dahbur; Ishaq 'Abd-al-Qadir Yunus; Bashir Ahmad al-Khayri; Dr. Samir Salamah; Jabr Muhammad Yusuf al-Wannah; Jamil Muhammad Isma'il al-Majdalawi; George Nicola Habash; Hamdi Muhammad Matar; Hanna Zakariya Hanna Qahhat; Dhiyab Khadr Mar'i Hasan; Dawud Marawighah, known as Abu-Ahmad Fu'ad; Rasmiyah Yusuf Mustafa 'Awdah; Shihadah 'Isa Ghannam; Salah-al-Din Wahid al- Hawwari; Sabir Mustafa Isma'il Muhyi-al-Din; Salah Muhammad Salah; 'Abid 'Ubayd 'Abdallah al-Zuray'i; 'Abd-al-Rahman Muhammad 'Ali al- Hajj Ahmad; 'Abd Raja Sarhan; 'Ablah Nasif Harb Shamiyah; 'Ata Isma'il 'Abd-al-Khatib; 'Umar Qutaysh; Fu'ad 'Abdallah Mahmud Yusuf; Firyal Sa'id al-Shaykh, known as Samirah Salah; Kayid Shihadah Kayid al-Ghul; Layla 'Ali Muhammad Khalid; Muhammad al-Musallami, known as Abu-Nidal; Muhammad Miflih Muhammad Nawfal; Mahmud Ibrahim Hamdan Fannun; Yunus 'Abd Taha; Kamal Diya'-al-Din Sa'id al-Nimri; Intisar Mar'i; Bilal al-Shakhshir; Khalid 'Abd-al-Rahim; Dawud Talhami; Salih Zaydan; 'Ali Abu-Hilal; 'Ali al-Shihabi; 'Inan al-'Amiri; 'Abd-al-Hamid Abu-Ghawsh; Lutfiyah al-Hawwari; Muhammad Qaddurah; Muhammad Sa'id Murad; Mahmud Barakah; Nazim al-Fa'uri; Nihayah Ahmad; 'Ablah Abu-'Ulbah; Fa'izah Abu-al-Hayja'; Taha al-'Abdallah; Zafir al-Khadra'; Khalid 'Abd-al-Hamid; Salim Abu-Khalil;

Mahmud Hamdan; Ibrahim al-Fityani; Yusuf al-Maqdah; 'Ali 'Aziz; Rashad Abu- Shawar; Buraq al-Shak'ah; 'Asim Niyazi Kan'an; Engineer Muhammad Husayn; and 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Bitar.

Algeria

Lebanese Premier, Arab League Chief Arrive 1 Sep

LD0109141293 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, and Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid arrived in Algiers from Casablanca, Morocco, this morning. [passage omitted]

A Foreign Ministry statement points out that during his stay, the Lebanese prime minister will meet with Redha Malek, prime minister and member of the Higher State Council.

Rafiq al-Hariri and 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid will leave Algiers today for Tunis.

Relations Discussed With Malek

LD0109223493 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] The Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and the Arab League Secretary General this afternoon left Algeria after a short visit.

The two Arab officials were received by Redha Malek, HSC [Higher State Council] member and prime minister, where bilateral relations between Algeria and Lebanon were discussed, as well as the issue of implementing the decision of the Arab League Council on rebuilding Lebanon.

Mozambican Envoy Delivers Message to Ali Kafi

LD0209085793 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] Ali Kafi, chairman of the Higher State Council [HSC], yesterday received a message from Joaquim Alberto Chissano, the Mozambican head of state. The message was carried by Dos Santos, speaker of the Mozambican parliament, who was yesterday received by Ali Haroun, member of the HSC.

During the meeting, Dos Santos said that he came to Algeria within the framework of a cordial and cooperation mission, adding that they wanted to brief Algeria and the HSC on the current situation in Mozambique, particularly after the signing of the peace agreement in October last between the Mozambican government and the opposition RENAMO [Mozambique National Resisitance] armed movement.

Investment Projects With Foreign Companies Licensed

LD0209093393 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] In an ordinary session held on Tuesday [31 August], the Credit and Monetary Council licensed the establishment of ten investment projects in Algeria which include the following sectors: building materials, maritime fishing, oil prospecting, information technology, iron and steel, chemistry, services, and mechanics.

The Credit and Monetary Council's approval concerns a number of foreign companies specializing in the aforementioned projects, including companies from Ireland, Morocco, Spain, Bahrain, Italy, France, and England.

Trade Union Appeals to Government To Protect Society

LD0209003893 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Statement issued by the national secretariat of the Algerian Workers National Trade Union—live or recorded]

[Text] The UGTA [Algerian Workers National Trade Union] national secretariat met today to evaluate the general situation in light of political, economic, and social developments and their effect on the labor world, especially on the eve of returning to the normal pattern of life [from the end of summer holidays].

Facing ever increasing incidents of violence and sabotage against persons, property, and public economic institutions, the national secretariat strongly condemns these criminal acts which are no different from the scorched earth policy which was applied by the French colonialists against Algerians. These abominable acts of sabotage, including the intentional setting of fires to buildings and property of local communities and national entities, beside being a blow aimed at destroying the national economy and inflicting harm on the sources of livelihood and food of the citizens, workers and deprived classes, who are the first to pay the price of this barbarous behavior, contravenes all the natural and divine laws of our tolerant Islamic faith.

The UGTA national secretariat, while recalling its initiative of a year ago in calling for the creation of committees for national upsurge and for the protection of institutions against sabotage, expresses regret today at the attitudes of some sides which were not satisfied with expressing their opposition to this gesture and instead distorted it and considered it an interference in the running of the institutions. Today they join rank with those who are the confidants of the decisionmaking centers in order to get into power, while we have not heard anything from them about their stand or their tangible deeds against the sabotage to which national economic institutions have been exposed, and which in the long run, is aimed at destroying the means of production. Therefore, workers will find themselves on the street—results which are much more serious than the terms of the IMF in one form or another.

In this connection, the UGTA national secretariat poses the question: If the premeditated and real intention of those who strive for destroying the national economy and sabotaging public organizations, and the maneuvers of those with vested interests, are not the means which make the country ready and willing to accept terms which are harder than those proposed by the international financial institutions to impose them on Algeria.

For these reasons, the UGTA national secretariat addresses a pressing appeal to all male and female workers for greater unity and solidarity as they recognize the seriousness of the stage through which the country is passing. They recognize that a continuous mobilization is required for defending public institutions and workers' rights to earn a living and live in dignity and protection of the homeland against all the dangers that now threaten it.

The UGTA national secretariat calls on all trade unions bodies and all trade unionists, wherever they may be, to consider themselves to be in a state of alert in order to confront all eventualities. It also appeals to all sincere people in this homeland of many factions and at all levels to unify the efforts and act earnestly for bringing the country out of the crisis that has been threatening its existence and entity.

In conclusion, the UGTA national secretariat calls on the governing regime to direct all its actions and efforts toward the good of the people and the homeland, and for whatever serves the interest of the masses of all Algeria. They should pay attention to solving the real problems and lie in wait for the external security and economic dangers which threaten the security and independence of the country, and they should extend a hand to the sincere ones and not to those who embark on useless action.

Egypt

Musa Returns From Working Visit to Israel

NC0109182693 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa returned to Alexandria from Israel this afternoon after a five-hour working visit.

He told our radio correspondent that he will forward a comprehensive report to President Husni Mubarak on the talks he held in Israel. He said he sensed enthusiasm for what has been achieved, especially the agreement on the declaration of principles between Israel and the Palestinians, and hope for progress on other tracks—the Syrian, Jordanian, and Lebanese.

He said there is optimism that things went in the right direction. He noted Egypt's readiness to make every effort in support of the peace process and to help the parties concerned because Egypt is interested in the peace process, for it is part of the region and the largest state in it. He said the peace process is bound to pass through Egypt, that there is no restriction on Egypt's role, and that Egypt is able to play the role required of it on the basis of the principles on which the negotiations were based.

The foreign minister said a declaration of principles must first be signed and then implemented and that negotiations on other tracks should continue according to the Madrid agreement. Commenting on Syria's stand, he emphasized Egypt's conviction that Syria is working sincerely to achieve peace.

Israeli President Ezer Weizman made a statement after meeting 'Amr Musa today, praising Egypt's primary role in backing the peace process as the biggest country in the region and the first state to sign a peace treaty with Israel. He added that the meeting was positive.

Papers Welcome Palestinian-Israeli Agreement

NC0209054993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2042 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 1 Sep (MENA)—The Egyptian newspapers have continued to discuss and welcome the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on Gaza-Jericho First.

AL-AKHBAR expresses astonishment at the stance of some Palestinian groups, which raise banners with resounding words about struggling to liberate Palestine and restoring the Palestinian people's rights without exercising any sort of national struggle.

In its Thursday [26 August] edition, the paper says it feels a painful shock because of the stance of those groups that have exercised no positive national struggle and made no sacrifices to achieve this goal. Their struggle was limited to making abortive terrorist attempts or assassinating moderate Palestinian figures.

Referring to the groups that split from the PLO and the Fatah Movement, AL-AKHBAR says the different groups have had no positive influence to benefit the Palestinian people or ease their suffering and pain.

Concluding its commentary, the paper contends that had the members of these dissident groups had the good intention to work to liberate their homeland, they would have hastened to unite their ranks and their struggle with all the patriotic elements to achieve the major objective.

AL-AHRAM praises the position of the peaceloving Israelis who want reconciliation with the Palestinians and the Arabs and who raised banners with the slogan "Give Peace a Chance." This is in contrast with the thousands of Israelis who demonstrated outside Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's office to express their rejection of the Gaza-Jericho plan.

The paper says the signs indicate that most Palestinians in the occupied territories welcome the news about this agreement.

Memorandum Proposes U.S.-Libya Talks on Lockerbie

NC0209105493 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 27 Aug 93 pp 1, 9

[Report by Mahmud Bakri]

[Text] Political sources have told AL-SHA'B that after President Mubarak's recent visit to Libya, Cairo made active moves to resolve the Lockerbie crisis. In a memorandum to the U.S. Administration, Egypt proposed direct U.S.-Libyan political meetings early in September, the first to be held between U.S. ambassadors in the region and Libyan officials. If they succeed, the level of the meetings will be raised.

The Egyptian memorandum stressed that the Libyan Government showed some of the flexibility needed to end the crisis and that the Libyans are prepared to take new steps toward American-Libyan rapprochement.

The memorandum warns that tightening the international sanctions against Libya in the next stage will spread tension and violence in the region.

The Egyptian memorandum proposes that the Libyan-American meetings be held on the following bases:

1. Giving the necessary assurances to protect the lives of the two Libyan suspects until their trial ends.

2. Providing the necessary legal and political guarantees for a fair trial for the suspects.

3. Discussing the American demands concerning Libya's sheltering of terrorists and the establishment of terrorist camps.

The Libyan leadership received information that American intelligence had drawn up a new plan to kidnap the two Libyan suspects next month.

U.S. Press Criticism Provokes Doubt Over Loyalty

NC0109125793 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 26 Aug 93 p 16

[Mustafa Amin's column: "A Thought"]

[Text] Some American newspapers accuse us of failing to listen to advice, which is not true. We welcome advice and refuse to take orders; we welcome friendship and refuse subordination. Being my friend does not mean I must approve all your conduct, cover up all your mistakes, or bless all your foolishness. Friendship is telling you what I honestly think, not backing you whether you are right or wrong. A true friend is one who prevents you from committing mistakes by drawing your attention to these mistakes before you make them, confronting you with facts, and warning you of the consequences.

A true friend is not one who backs you when you are being unjust and when you are meting out injustice, but one who backs you when you are on the receiving end of injustice and disagrees with you when you are being unjust.

We cannot keep quiet about Israel's aggression on the Palestinians. Nor can we ignore the demolition of their homes, the displacement of their people, and the assaults on their folk. Equally, we cannot keep quiet about the ugly aggression on Lebanon and cannot let Israel punish the Lebanese for a crime they did not commit. If Hizballah receives orders from Iran, what crime did the peaceful Lebanese commit? They didn't fire a single bullet nor did they rain rockets on Israel.

We feel that every attack on Lebanon is an attack against us, and every act of injustice against Palestinians makes our heart bleed.

We cannot keep quiet about the massacres and the calamities being inflicted on Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

America is Britain's ally. But the American people sympathize with the Irish and applaud when the Irish explode a bomb against the British.

We stood by America in its war against communism and its war against Hitler. We stood by America in its war against Iraq. But there is a big difference between friendship and subordination, between acting as a sovereign, independent state and as an obedient colony or center of power that takes orders and instructions.

The weak can never be loyal.

Ukrainian Embassy Opens in Cairo 1 Sep

NC0109142993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1239 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 1 Sep (MENA)—Ambassador Viktor Nahaychuk, charge d'affaires at the Ukrainian Embassy in Cairo, has praised Egyptian diplomacy's role at Arab and international levels.

Addressing a ceremony at the official opening of the Ukrainian Embassy in Cairo today, he stressed the importance of cooperation between his country and Egypt. He said his government has chosen Cairo as the site of its first embassy in the entire Arab world and Africa in appreciation of Egypt's role in the region.

Attending the ceremony were Ambassador Mahmud Mubarak, assistant foreign minister and director of the Foreign Ministry's new Commonwealth Department representing Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa; Ambassador Sa'd al-'Ujayzi, director of the Foreign Ministry's Protocol Department; and several Arab and foreign diplomats in Cairo.

Ambassador Mubarak reiterated the deep relations between Egypt and Ukraine and the possibility of stronger cooperation when Ukraine has diplomatic representation in Cairo.

Mubarak Marks Prophet's Birthday With Speech

NC3108120293 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1916 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Speech by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak marking Prophet Muhammad's birthday in the Alexandria Library—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, and compassionate. Grand Imam of al-Azhar, reverend Ulema, brothers and sisters: It is one of the happiest times of my life to attend this intimate meeting with you to celebrate the glorious and immortal anniversary of the birthday of our great prophet. The occasion reminds us of his advent, may God's prayers and peace be upon him. His birthday was a turning point for mankind, taking us from an age of ignorance to enlightenment. His advent was the dawning of a shining star for all mankind, saving people from darkness. His birth marked the advent of the last prophet, the one who complemented the scriptures, and who was sent by God almighty as a source of compassion for all mankind.

Had the world been fair or known the truth of this magnanimous prophet, it would have shared our celebration of this day, which is worthy of every esteem. [applause] Commemorating this day expresses our homage and sets an example for us. It embodies the most splendid ideals for our rising generations. The celebration reminds us of the lofty values and principles that Prophet Muhammad established. God chose Prophet Muhammad as a guide for mankind and a shining torch. These principles and values have always been the path to salvation, guidance, righteousness, and the hand of peace and giving extended from heaven to all mankind.

I believe that the best celebration of this anniversary is to follow the example, path, and teachings of this prophet, whom God inspired to lofty values and principles. Thus, we will benefit from this anniversary and respond to God's call to his messenger Prophet Muhammad: But teach thy message, for teaching benefits the believers. [Koranic verse]

His life was a splendid example of a righteous man, whose example as a pure child, ethical youth, and great prophet must be followed. He demonstrated intelligence, open-mindedness, patience, perseverance, appreciation of responsibility and obligation, relentless struggle, courage, and boundless sacrifice to satisfy God and his duty for his mission.

Prophet Muhammad's life was a living lesson that offered the most splendid examples for the ideal man. He showed us how a virtuous man should live his life. The lofty principles and immortal values he introduced are a rich legacy that can guide us in our march for revival and progress and building a strong and cohesive society. Such a society would safeguard rights, perform its duty, and lay the foundations of relations among the people based on equality, fairness, and tolerance. It would reject fanaticism and extremism, uphold freedom, urge the search for knowledge and use of reason, and open the door for sound understanding for a better and safer future.

At its core, Islam is based on the cohesion and unified ranks of the sons of the nation. Prophet Muhammad achieved drastic changes in his society. He moved society from scattered tribes to a large unified Islamic family. He deepened the values of peace and harmony, eliminating disputes and conflict. He made the Arabs befriend other peoples with whom relations were previously based on enmity and hatred. Thus, all the believers became brothers with equal rights and duties and one would be distinguished from another by piety and good deeds.

Now, as we call for a great national and pan-Arab awakening, we must be guided by true Islamic values and Prophet Muhammad's virtuous life, which deepens in our hearts the feeling that society is one, that love and fraternity are the basis of a cohesive Islamic society, and that tolerance and coexistence must prevail among Muslims and other peoples, free from fanaticism, hatred, and enmity.

It pains the Muslim who is ardent about his religion to see some sons of the nation falling prey to moral and behavioral excesses. It pains him to see the Islamic nation suffering from intellectual backwardness, weak economy and production, tribal and political conflicts, and religious extremism. These are serious phenomena that made our nation backward, moving it back from the prominence it deservedly occupied for several centuries. These maladies distorted our nation's image in the eyes of others and made some people misjudge us and accuse Islam wrongly or unfairly of false charges.

It is courageous self-criticism, frank, and honest to admit these transient maladies and search for a remedy. With all honesty and conviction, I maintain that the remedy lies in complying with the substance of true religion and following the path of the great prophet and the values of his sound religion and immortal principles. The anniversary of his birthday offers the best occasion to recall these values and principles that are the substance of true religion.

Prophet Muhammad, God's prayers be with him, confronted behavioral and moral deviation decisively from the start and made the purpose of his message one of ethics. He said clearly and unambiguously: I was sent to complete the high moral standards. He also told his companions and all the sons of his nation: Do you want me to say who is nearest and dearest to me on the day of judgment? The one with the highest morals. Even the need to give prominence to ethics in Islam is best manifested by God almighty's choice of praising his prophet by describing him as the one with the highest moral character. He said: And thou standest on an exalted standard of character. [Koranic verse]

In response, the first Muslims' ethical values, with which they built the best civilization, included sublime virtues that radiated brotherhood and love, tolerance and mercy, valor and succor, honesty and clear conscience, clean hands and consciences, noble aims, and the correct means. All this was based on the fear of God almighty in private and in public.

As for intellectual and scientific backwardness, Muhammad, God's prayers and mercy be with him, successfully tackled it radically. He established his message on sound thinking and useful science: The thinking that is based on reason, seeking truth, and disregarding illusions, subservience, and traditions and science fulfills the needs of the individual and the group and betters the religious and material lot of the people, impelling the people and the nation to move toward progress and the ranks of leadership and to lift them to the highest levels of virtue and civilization. The holy Koran has many verses that urge intellectual advance and scientific progress. There are many sayings by the prophet that support these verses. In response to this call for intellectual advance and scientific progress, the early Muslims eagerly embraced the sources of noble intellect and beneficial sciences. They studied and acquired knowledge and also wrote and showed creativity. They absorbed all the knowledge that humanity accumulated. They then added sciences and knowledge that they themselves established. They blazed the trail for these sciences and knowledge and were its most important scholars. They did this with open and immensely mature minds that gave humanity Muslim scholars whose names remain engraved on the record of the immortals.

As for economic and production shortcomings, Muhammad, may God's prayers and peace be on him, fought them as strongly as he could with his constructive values and ingenious principles. Citing the honorable Koran, using his sayings, and pursuing his exemplary conduct, the prophet called for serious and useful action and for the rich and plentiful production that benefits both the individual and the community, develops the land with sweat and good performance, and makes life flourish through giving and generous contributions. How great was the almighty when he said: "Work; soon will God observe your work and his apostle and the believers," [Koranic verse].

This is a call for action, production, and development and for making every possible effort to bring about growth and economic soundness so that God's wish to populate the earth and establish a prosperous life can be realized. In response to this call, Muslims in the golden era were an example to the entire world in production, creativity, and development in the various spheres, such as industry and farming, trade and construction, and all the activities that upgrade human life and upraise culture and civilization. Through these efforts, Muslims' economic life flourished when others lived a more primitive and underdeveloped life.

Muhammad, may God's peace and prayers be on him, treated tribal and political feuds with a call for unity and rallying around God's principles. He strongly warned against engaging in disputes, conflicts, and clashes, viewing them as shortcomings reminiscent of the hateful ages of ignorance and barbarism. The call for unity was evident in many Koranic verses and prophetic sayings. In the holy Koran the Almighty says: "And hold fast, all together, by the rope that God stretches out for you, and be not divided among yourselves" and "and fall into no disputes, lest ye lose heart and your power depart."

In this Islamic spirit that urges cohesion and solidarity, Arabs were close together in the early ages. They became united brothers, after being scattered enemies during the ages of ignorance because of tribal disputes, hatred, and grudges. Arabs were integrated with different races who adopted the true religion. All were fastened together by the knot of Islam; they were held fast by the rope of God. With that cohesion, Muslims reached heights, triumphed, and made miraculous achievements.

Muhammad, God's prayers and peace be on him, categorically rejected religious and sectarian extremism. He urged people to forgive and be kind, legislated wisdom and good counselling as an approach to the promotion of the creed, and condemned all instruments of oppression, violence, and severity. This was included in several Koranic and prophetic texts, as well as in the biography of the noble prophet, who was ideal in his sound Islamic conduct. All these pure texts and this exemplary conduct reaffirm Islam's tolerance, its guarantee of freedom of religion and respect for opposite views, and its refusal to force anyone to adopt a specific creed, even if this creed was Islam. How great was the Almighty's words: "Let there be no compulsion in religion. Truth stands out clear from error." Or his words to his prophet: "Wilt thou then compel mankind, against their will, to believe?"

In this way, we see that Islam contains nothing about aggression on anyone to force them to embrace any doctrine, irrespective of the reasons. Islam does not stipulate harming anyone by accusing him of certain behavior. There are legal measures and fixed punishments regarding which there is no vagueness or ambiguity. These punishments are reviewed by the fair judiciary, which alone is loyal to the call and is entrusted with establishing justice and protecting fairness.

When we call for adopting the values and noble principles of Islam to handle these phenomena and achieve awareness to attain growth; when we claim that these values and principles have previously established a virtuous society for Islam and achieved a great civilization for the Muslims, we do not call for locking ourselves in the past, not rising to the present, and not aspiring to the future. What we are calling for is to derive the noble and glorious values and wise and sublime principles. We are calling for adopting the essence of our true religion as a starting point for a better life and model future.

We are not bound by these alien concepts which some, falsely and slanderously, claim are religion. They fight about them and argue over them. In fact, they punish society for not abiding by these concepts while the latter have nothing to do with the essence of the religion.

We call for correct understanding of religion; that is, explanations as affirmed by the holy Koranic texts, supported by the prophet's elaborations, and implemented by the actions of the prophet, God's peace and blessings be upon him. We call for rectifying the problems of our nation by applying the glorious essence of Islam, which radiates with noble morals and straight conduct, correct thinking, and deep knowledge. It calls for a prosperous economy and abundance of production. It urges unity of rank and forgiveness. It sanctifies freedom of opinion, democracy in government, and justice in society. It pushes the nation toward civilization and prominence so that it takes its appropriate position in the world as the best nation ever created for people.

The Grand Imam of al-Azhar, knowledgeable ulemas, dear brothers and sisters: I believe that conveying this call and entrenching these principles could now become the primary duty of the ulemas, preachers, thinkers, men of letters, and any person with an opinion whose heart pulses with love for his homeland and who cares about the situation in his nation. At this stage in particular we are in dire need to feel the honor of belonging to our homeland and nation. We should do everything in our power to raise these homelands and elevate this nation. This cannot be achieved through one-upmanships or slogans, or through conflicts or quarrels, honied words, or fake promises, or through distorting texts and explaining religion according to personal whims and interests. Islam has taught us honesty, correct conduct, and noble goals. It has warned us away from treachery and lies about God and his prophet. The prophet warned those who commit such a crime of the judgment they will get. He said: Let whoever lies to me on purpose take his place in hell.

Likewise, we cannot improve our affairs by extremism and fanaticism or by forming renegade, fugitive groups that can only agree on hating society and exciting hostility for orderly systems and who call for confronting everything with a violence, rising sometimes to the point of terrorism and intimidating peaceable, innocent people. Their objectives are to weaken the nation, deplete its resources, and distract it from its true goals and legitimate struggle along the course of progress and development.

Such behavior has made some Western writers and politicians believe that Islam has become the danger threatening international peace following the disappearance of the communist threat. These writers and politicians base their judgment on the statements and actions of some of those who profess Islam. These people forgot or merely did not learn that the essence of Islam does not pose a threat or danger to anyone. It should not be a cause of concern or fear to other people. In its essence, it is a religion of love and brotherhood, a religion supporting freedom and human rights. It is a religion of justice and civilization, a religion of equality and peace for all mankind irrespective of the differences in their color, creed, and class.

The Muslims have not and will not be a source of danger or a force of terrorism in the new world. They will not play the role that frightens humanity because the essence of their religion rejects this, their history shows that it is a lie, and their venerable book and their great prophet's tradition prohibits it.

The disgraceful behavior by some followers of Islam is an individual one and a personal deviation. It is those who pursue this behavior who are responsible for it and not Islam or Muslims. It is not fair to condemn religion because of the actions of some who claim to be Muslims. It is not fair to hold Muslim society responsible for the behavior of some who are followers of this religion.

Hence we have, brothers, to fight on two fronts: The first is the one of reforming ourselves and amending the mistakes of those among us who have deviated. The second is the one of rectifying our image before the world and highlighting the essence of our religion before the world so that the latter will not blame Islam for the failings of some Muslims and will not take a hostile stand against us, and also so that we can take our place in the new world order through our righteousness and our civilized and correct behavior and our cooperation with the world to establish justice, achieve legitimacy, and establish the just peace and social stability that makes everyone happy. [applause]

It is not in our interest to be hostile to the world or to embark on a futile conflict with it. It is in our supreme interest to cooperate with the world as equals and to resolve our problems with it in a civilized way. We should do all this while harnessing the strengths that can bring us this parity. When we talk about strength, we mean the intellectual and scientific one, the cultural and civilized one, the economic and productive one, the ethical and behavorial one, and the modern defensive strength that protects all the other strengths and defends all our achievements and successes.

Grand Imam the shaykh of al-Azhar, esteemed scholars, brothers and sisters: Neglect in confronting these phenomena must inevitably lead to dire consequences that will not please anyone. An evaluation of the conditions of our Islamic nation and our Arab countries today is the best evidence of what I am saying. In many parts of our nation we see things that are unacceptable to those who care about Islam and Muslims. In many parts of our Arab nation we see things that are unacceptable to those who care about Arabism and the Arab nation's interests.

These negative conditions undoubtedly weaken our Islamic nation and impair our Arab countries' strength. They even distort our image as Arabs and Muslims in the minds of others and make us lose the support of many peoples who could have stood with us when we were repelling injustice inflicted on Muslims subjected to tyranny and aggression in various parts of the world. We neither accept nor sanction such an outcome.

It is from this premise that we tell the faction that has harmed Islam and Muslims: Have the fear of God and observe his tenets for the sake of your nation, country, religion, and Arabism. Abide by the correct Muslim behavior and the noble Arab morals so as to be righteous and the image of our religion can be rectified, and so that your peoples and nation can rise.

Brothers and sisters: I seize this opportunity to appeal to my Muslim brothers everywhere and to my Arab brothers everywhere in the Arabs' lands, as individuals and groups, that we start today, and not tomorrow, working to bring about our nation's awakening and our countries' renaissance by following the sublime values and the true tenets of our religion. The betterment of our conditions and the guarantee for retrieving our position and restoring our strength lie in these values, on condition that we understand them correctly and without exaggeration or excesses. I make this appeal from this rostrum and from Egypt, the heart of Arabism and the shield of Islam. I hope that this appeal will find the response it merits from our Muslim and Arab brothers everywhere. God is the succor and help. A happy anniversary to you and to our nation. God's peace and blessings be with you. [applause]

'Largest' Military Joint Exercise Under Way

NC0209091093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0745 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] Ismailia, 2 Sep (MENA)—The Egyptian military has entered a new phase with the current regional stability and following the developments in the Middle East peace process. Egypt is now the scene of the largest military exercise in the history of its Armed Forces. All branches and weapons of the Egyptian Army are participating in the exercise, codenamed "Badr," which seeks to assess the combat capability of the Armed Forces and get the best performance out of the new weapons in the service.

The exercise, which began the day before yesterday and will last 10 days, involves training in swiftly confronting and repulsing any sudden attack using every weapon. The exercise started with an overall air strike against strategic sites, the Air Force and Air Defense units cooperating to face the attack.

Lieutenant General Salah Halabi, chief of staff of the Armed Forces, witnessed the start of the air attack from the mobilization command center in the eastern region, where he observed the commanders handling the air strike. The center, designed with Egyptian expertise, is one of the most advanced in the world. It gives commanders a full picture of the situation in the Egyptian sky and helps them deal swiftly with any aerial attack against Egyptian territory. It also gives the commanders various options for dealing with enemy targets. This helps them make a decision regarding enemy targets within seconds, rather than minutes under conventional methods.

During the Badr military exercise, the command center today dealt with enemy targets. Some were intercepted by fighter planes while others were shot down by guided missiles, something that proved the high level of combat capability of the Egyptian fighter in dealing with any enemy target fast without wasting time between the start of the attack and the response.

A high level of combat readiness was demonstrated inside one of the anti-aircraft missile units, which identified an enemy target on the radar screen, notified the command center, and dealt with the target by firing a missile at it. By so doing, the unit showed what the Armed Forces are doing to keep the Egyptian sky safe.

As part of the first stage of the Badr exercise, the Border Guards Forces, in cooperation with the Military Engineering, Electronic Warfare, and Commando troops, conducted successful combat missions to obstruct the advance of the enemy along all combat lines day and night. They inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy's mechanized and armored units, aborted their plans, and forced them to stop. They also secured all vital and important sites within their range of operation. During their non-stop 24 hours of combat, these troops demonstrated a high level of performance and efficient use of all modified and advanced weapons and equipment in the Armed Forces' service.

Reports on Terrorist Military Organization Denied

NC3108202693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1955 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 31 Aug (MENA)—In a statement to MENA, an informed source has denied reports that a terrorist organization consisting of six military men was uncovered more than two months ago. The reports were published by AL-'ARABI, mouthpiece of the Arab Democratic Nasirite Party, and the United Arab Emirates-based AL-KHALIJ and disseminated by certain news agencies.

Published news and stories about this subject are completely baseless and untrue, the source stressed.

The source noted that AL-KHALIJ yesterday published a correction stating that its original reports on the subject were untrue.

Source Details Terrorist Operations Planning Center

NC0109211393 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 25 Aug 93 pp 1,8

[Text] An informed source has told AL-AHALI that the center for planning the terrorist operations that take place in Egypt is located in an Arab state, which the source refused to name. He hinted that it was not Sudan and just said that the meetings take place in this center with one or more representatives of this state, a representative of a non-Arab state, and a representative of the Afghan Egyptians who still live in some Afghan regions.

The informed source affirmed that this center is located in the department of armament procurement and contracts of the Defense Ministry of this fraternal Arab state. He noted that the terrorist forces with which coordination is conducted are basically the forces of "Abu-Mus'ab," that is Muhammad Shawqi al-Islambuli, who has been sentenced to death, as well as other Arab forces belonging to a big state.

The informed source affirmed that the existence of this center does not in any way disregard the terrorist organizations at home and does not diminish their responsibility for the criminal operations they commit or their danger to security and stability at home. He added that the existence of this center and the planning and coordination that takes place in it mean that the danger of terrorist operations could increase in the future. The source warned against the grave repercussions of such actions.

The source affirmed that Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, the spiritual leader of the Islamic Group, who is being held in a U.S. prison, issues the religious rulings for murder and sends them to Afghanistan. A special envoy then carries them to the terrorist operations planning center where suitable plans are made for implementing the orders of the terror mufti. He said that there is decisive proof that such contacts took place before the attempt to assassinate Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif. He added that it is also likely that similar contacts took place prior to the attempt to assassinate Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi.

Political circles regard this information as very important and serious and think that the attempt to assassinate al-Alfi was part of a bigger plan that includes the attempt of certain forces to prepare the ground for an alternative regime. The informed source indicated to AL-AHALI that a compromise solution is currently being prepared and polished, joining a liberal party and the religious organizations, so that the liberal forces will assume power with the support of the Muslim Brotherhood and the Islamic groups.

Other sources affirmed that there is a military personality currently being prepared for this purpose. It should be recalled that Radio Monte Carlo broadcast an important dispatch by its correspondent in Islamabad following the attempt to assassinate al-Alfi. The dispatch included a telephone conversation with someone speaking in an Egyptian accent who mentioned the name of a lieutenant colonel in the Air Force. He said that this man was one of 50 civilians and 27 military men who had been arrested. He said that these arrests were the direct reason for the order to assassinate al-Alfi. He affirmed that those arrested are members of the Vanguards of Conquest-Islamic al-Jihad organization, which carried out the assassination attempt. He said that this organization is led by brother Abu-Mus'ab (al-Islambuli). The person who spoke in an Egyptian accent threatened to assassinate the president himself. He said that our organization is being united with the Islamic Group in Egypt, and this will be announced soon, God willing.

Background to Vanguards of Conquest Trials Reported

NC0109170093 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 27 Aug 93 pp 21, 22

[Unattributed report: "Surprises of the Vanguards of Conquest; the First Appearance of al-Jihad since the Assassination of al- Sadat; Group's Trial To Continue through Winter in Five Military Circuits"]

[Text] Of the 823 defendants facing charges in case No. 123 of 1993, known as the Vanguards of Conquest (the reorganized al-Jihad) the Military Prosecution Office has released approximately 38 defendants, including Dr. Thana' Ahmad 'Abdallah, 35, wife of defendant Isma'il 'Abd-al-Fattah. The office dropped charges against Dr. 'Abdallah upon evidence that the weapon seized in her clinic in Imam al-Shafi'i [in Cairo] belonged to her husband.

The presence of a woman gynecologist on the list of defendants is not the only surprise in the Vanguards of Conquest case. The statement of indictment named the largest number of defendants in a political case ever (823). The number of defendants in al-Sadat's assassination case was only 302, including 176 charged in Higher State Security case No. 462 concerning the al-Jihad organization.

The second surprise is that this was the first al-Jihad-affiliated organization uncovered in Egypt since 1981. All the groups recently arrested and tried in civilian or military courts were affiliated either with the Islamic Group or minor organizations such as Hizballah in Alexandria and al-Shawqiyun in al-Fayyum.

The Military Prosecution Office is about to issue a statement of indictment in case No. 21 of 1993, representing the third part of the Vanguards of Conquest trial, in early September. A statement of indictment has been released in case No. 18 of 1993 including charges against 53 defendants. Another statement of indictment was issued for case No. 19 for 1993 including charges against 23 defendants, four of whom are still at large. Two more statements of indictment are being prepared in a fourth and a fifth case, involving up to 300 Vanguards of Conquest defendants. The remaining 523 suspected members of the Vanguards of Conquest will not face charges until the prosecution finishes preparing the indictment in the five cases.

The Military Prosecution Office has charged 53 defendants, including six who are still on the run, with theft of a furniture truck in al-Muqattam and murdering the truck driver and his assistant; possession of firearms, ammunition, and explosives without a license; stabbing and killing a sentry guarding the Saudi Consulate in Garden City [in Cairo]; possession of bombs; murdering two policemen on 73d Street in al-Ma'adi [in Cairo] to steal their weapons; attempted theft; attempted murder; and forgery.

A list of the weapons seized with the group includes 23 grenades, 51 explosive charges, nine ordinary detonators, nine detonators with a spring action, 11 electric detonators, one rocket head, 18 bags of ball bearings, and 10 shotgun rounds. The statement of indictment for the first case of the Vanguards of Conquest is 16 pages long. Four other cases involving the Vanguards of Conquest will be tried at military courts this winter.

In the first hearing in the trial of the first case involving the Vanguards of Conquest, the defendants denounced military trials and pinned signs to the dock's wall facing presiding judge Major General Muhammad Wajdi al-Laythi claiming that they were tortured and asking to be examined by medical experts from the forensics office. Forty defense lawyers represented the 53 defendants. The defendants also asked to see their relatives, whom they had not seen for eight months.

The first clue in the Vanguards of Conquest case came in January 1993 as police began to monitor the moves of Majdi Ahmad Salim, the 37th defendant in the case, in Cairo and a number of north Egypt governorates. Majdi Salim and his brother, 'Abdallah, visited a number of coastal governorates to meet with a number of al-Jihad members acquitted in Higher State Security case No. 462.

Police discovered that Majdi was a merchant who traveled to Saudi Arabia two years ago where he was arrested by the Saudi authorities and extradited to Egypt. Majdi, who was banned from travel, used a forged passport. While in Saudi Arabia, he met in Medina with a number of the Afghanistan war veterans. There, he received orders from Ayman al-Zawahiri, 43, leader of the al-Jihad wing in Afghanistan, to implement a daring plan to revive the al-Jihad organization and mount terrorist operations to restore the group, then overshadowed by the Islamic Group, to its former prestige.

Al-Zawahiri asked Majdi Salim to get in touch with some of the 176 individuals once implicated in Higher State Security case No. 462 to implement what al-Zawahiri calls the "flea and dog" plan, meaning that the group would stick to the regime's body like a flea and suck its blood through a succession of operations that would help bring it down.

Majdi Salim and his brother went about their mission, traveling in eight governorates: al-Minufiyah, al-Buhayrah, Cairo, al-Jizah, al-Qalyubiyah, Kafr al-Shaykh, Port Said, and Alexandria.

The organization's members split into two groups: one in Cairo, al-Jizah, and the Nile Delta under the command of Majdi Salim; and the second in Alexandria and the Suez Canal area under the command of Fu'ad Dayfallah, former Hizballah member. Dayfallah brought into the second group 13 members of his own followers. The new organization also included eight Palestinians studying in Egyptian universities. This move was designed to impart an international character to al-Jihad, a trend that the organization plans to develop further in the future.

Information that the Egyptian security services submitted to the Military Prosecutor's Office indicates that the Vanguards of Conquest organization was first established in late 1979 in the wake of the schism between 'Abbud al-Zumur and 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman. It included four major figures: 'Abd-al-Hamid Muhammad 'Abdallah, who used the noms de guerre Hasan, Ibrahim, Samir, and Marwan and is defendant No. 1 in the current case; Muhammad Husam Ahmad, alias Abu-Talhah, defendant No. 2 in the current case; Tariq 'Abd-al- Fattah Ahmad, alias Tariq 'Abd-al-Sattar, also one of the defendants currently on trial; Majdi Ahmad Salim, a former sales director at 'Abd-al-'Aziz Shakir's Company in Saudi Arabia who is currently defendant No. 37.

According to reports, these individuals took part in the Afghan liberation war since 1978 and received extensive training in manufacturing explosives and detonation methods at the Sadaqah and Khaldan camps. As shown by 23 dossiers—10,000 pages—of case documents, defendant No. 1 'Abd-al-Hamid Muhammad 'Abdallah was in charge of planning operations, making field preparations, and supplying explosives and weapons to the other defendants. His methods consisted of thorough surveillance of the intended sites of attacks and the victims' movements. The operations were usually carried out by two or more of the organization's operatives under the supervision of a senior member.

According to the indictment list, the organization was responsible for the bombings of the Wadi al-Nil Cafe and al-Azbaqiyah police station, the Shubra and pyramids road bombings, and the attempt on the life of Interior Minister Major General Hasan al-Alfi on al-Shaykh Rayhan Street in Cairo. This latter attempt was carried out by Nazih Nushi Rashid and Diya' al-Din Hafiz, defendants 46 and 49 in the Vanguards of Conquest case [fugitives at the time of the initial indictment and killed during the attack on the interior minister]. The initial indictment accused Nazih Nushi Rashid only of belonging to the group before he carried out the attack on the interior minister.

The Vanguards of Conquest case is the third attempt to reorganize al-Jihad. An earlier attempt to reorganize the group was made by Muhammad Salamah Ibrahim Salamah, a company employee in Alexandria, in 1979. That group included Muhammad 'Abd-al-Salam Faraj, who later became mufti of al-Jihad. In those days Nazih Nushi Rashid was a minor figure in the Rawd al-Faraj area group under the command of an extremist known as Muhammad Commander of the Armies, official in charge of Cairo's al-Sahil and Shubra districts. A second attempt to forge together a new al-Jihad group produced the individuals who assassinated former President al-Sadat, provoked the 6 and 8 October incidents at Asyut Security Department in 1981, and produced State Higher Security Case No. 462, in which most of the 176 defendants were acquitted.

Contacts With Pakistan on Extremists To Resume

NC3108194193 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 27 Aug 93 p 12

[Text] The Egyptian authorities are still waiting for the political crisis in Pakistan to end and general elections to be held there before conducting fresh contacts with the Pakistani Interior Ministry for the extradition of about 600 Egyptian extremists living in Peshawar. Of these, 23 Egyptians have recently been expelled and gone to Sudan.

A responsible security source has affirmed to AL-MUSAWWAR that no contacts on this issue have taken place with Pakistan recently; the Interior Ministry is studying the situation regarding these extremists before contacting the Pakistani authorities, once the political crisis there ends. The source denied that a special request has been made for the extradition of Ayman al-Zawahiri, 43, the fugitive Egyptian physician and mastermind of the Vanguards of Conquest organization, who has been sentenced to death. He noted that former Pakistani Interior Minister Chaudhary Hussain had approved the Egyptian request for the extradition of about 63 extremists. However, the political crisis in Pakistan hampered the extradition, and the time has not yet come to go ahead with it. The Pakistani ambassador to Egypt has affirmed that no Egyptians in Pakistan can be extradited as there is no agreement for the exchange of criminals between Egypt and Pakistan.

Seven Arrested on Suspicion of Attacking Police

NC3108160293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1503 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 31 Aug (MENA)—Police today arrested five terrorists involved in the attempted murder of a policeman in Aswan a few days ago.

According to a source at the Interior Ministry, the five terrorists are: Ahmad 'Abd-al-Zahir Ibrahim, a holder of a social service degree, unemployed; Nasir Muhammad 'Abd-al-Karim, 27, a holder of a technical arts diploma, unemployed; Husayn Jum'ah Hamadi, 23, a holder of a literature degree, from Idfu, unemployed; Usamah Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab, 20, a student at the agriculture school in Idfu; and Muhammad Yusuf 'Abd-al-Hamid, 35, an employee of the tax department, who has not been showing up for work lately.

According to the same source, Ibrahim has admitted to having participated with the four other men in the attack. The weapon used in the crime has been confiscated. It is to be recalled that the attack left the policeman with bullet wounds in his arm and chest.

Police also arrested two terrorists who took part in an attack on a police car on the Corniche road in Aswan on 15 March. No one was hurt in that attack.

A security source said that the arrests were made as part of the intensive efforts by the Interior Ministry services to expose the dimensions of the recent terrorist attacks and bring the perpetrators to justice.

The two arrested men, Rajab 'Abd-al-Ra'uf Khalil, 23, and 'Abd-al-Nasir Muhammad Hamid, 25, admitted to taking part with others in the attack on a police car they thought was carrying a prominent police official. Police seized the weapon used in the crime.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi: Lockerbie Discussions Suspended

NC0109161293 Paris AFP in English 1607 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Tripoli, Sept 1 (AFP)—Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on Wednesday [1 September] said discussions with the West to resolve a dispute over the Lockerbie bombing had been suspended and that Libya would not bow to western threats.

Libya, which is refusing to hand over suspects in the 1988 bombing of a Pan American airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, "will not be threatened into changing its position on the Lockerbie affair," Colonel al-Qadhdhafi said.

"All the negotiations underway between Libya and the West have been suspended because of the ultimatum," he added in a speech marking the 24th anniversary of his takeover of power in 1969. [passage omitted]

Man-Made River Water Brought To Banghazi 1 Sep

LD0109105893 Tripoli JANA in English 0902 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] Banghazi, al Fateh [Sep] 1, JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY—At the celebrations of the twenty fourth anniversary of the al-Fatih revolution, the way to development and a better future, was announced, by bringing the waters of the great man made river all the way to Banghazi.

At an extensive popular celebration, where slogans reverberated in support of the great al Fateh revolution and its leader Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the engineer of the great man made river, and amidst the great joy felt on this occasion, at two thirty on the morning of the great al Fateh 1993, the waters of the great man made river reached every home in Banghazi.

Cries of happiness and joy were heard in each home as a result of this momentous occasion, at the realisation of this dream achieved by the great al Fateh revolution. Thus, the words of the leader of the revolution which he proclaimed when laying the founding stone of the great man made river how the waters were harnessed by the will of the revolution, to bring the water from the heart of the desert towards the north in the longest path of its kind, resulting in the great man made river's becoming the eight wonder of the world.

This new attempt is intended to back up Banghazi's existing water supply with the water from the great man made river, this is the first stage. Next, the plan is to connect the water supply to Ajdabiya's water pipes and to divide the project into eight sections, each 51 kilometres long which will begin from the al-Dukh station before it enters the water pipe system of Banghazi/Ajdabiya to the 'Umar al-Mukhtar reservoir, crossing the Maskalu and Maqzaha roads until the al-Talhiyah reservoir in concrete pipes measuring 1600 mm in diameter, then onto the first and second valves in concrete pipes 2000 mm in diameter, crossing the al-Qawarshah Baninah road. Then it will be diverted to the third valve in the area of al-Fawihat in steel pipes, 1000 mm in diameter and then to valve number four, crossing the al-Sudan road and the Jamhiriya road in concrete pipes 1600 mm in diameter. Then from the fourth valve until it meets with the Banghazi water pipe network.

The entire project involved making concrete pipes, road works, digging the first and second layers, digging the first foundation, laying the pipes, repairing the the first and second levels, and diverting the valves to the al-Talhiyah al-Kabir reservoir. All of this was accomplished in a mere five months and was completed on the morning of al-Fatih of September, 1993.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Expresses Concern Over Israel-PLO Agreement

AB0209101593 Paris AFP in French 1744 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] Khartoum, 1 Sep (AFP)—The leader of Sudan's ruling Islamic military junta, General 'Umar al-Bashir, has expressed reservations about the agreement signed between the Israeli Government and the PLO on Jericho and the Gaza Strip, SUNA reported today. At a news conference in Khartoum, Gen. al-Bashir expressed fears that the Gaza-Jericho proposal "might later be highly detrimental to future Israeli evacuation from the remaining Palestinian territories and the future self-determination of Palestinians."

While expressing his country's support for any agreement acceptable to the Palestinian people, he said, "judging from earlier experiences, the Zionist state could later give a different interpretation to the current agreement." Gen. Al-Bashir underscored the risk of an eventual "neutralization" of the Palestinian intifadah and expressed fears that the agreement might "transform the Israeli-Palestinian conflict into an intra-Palestinian conflict." "What we fear most is the possibility of this agreement serving to neutralize the Palestinian intifadah, which has spread into every home and broken down the barrier of fear of Israeli repression," he said.

Tunisia

'Arafat Meets Ben Ali, Comments on Peace Talks

LD0109190193 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali met with the Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat at noon today at Carthage Palace in the presence of Foreign Affairs Minister Habib Ben Yahya and Hakam Bal'awi, a member of the Fatah Central Committee.

After the meeting, 'Arafat gave a statement. He said that in the light of continuous developments—particularly after the announcement of the agreement that was concluded between us and the Israeli side—it was necessary for us to come to President Ben Ali to listen to his advice, to be guided by his good and blessed views, and to pursue this process and make it successful, because the process is still in its beginning. Unless we pursue it, it is possible that it might be subjected to a setback from different quarters.

Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] added that continuous action is therefore necessary in order to actually arrive at a firm process through which the Israeli withdraw from the Palestinian territories—which the Israelis call Judaea and Samaria.

After affirming that the agreement stipulates an immediate withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, followed by other withdrawals in the final phase from the rest of the occupied territories—including Holy Jerusalem, 'Arafat said that this issue has acquired a special significance, not just at the Palestinian level, but also at the Arab level. Particularly, this is because there is progress in other areas—be it in Lebanon, Jordan, or Syria—according to which it is possible to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region that takes into account the legitimate national political rights of the Palestinian people and the national rights of our Arab nation.

'Aziz Meets With UN Secretary General in Geneva

JN0209060293 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0300 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, met with UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali in Geneva yesterday. They discussed various aspects of relations between the United Nations and Iraq.

The meeting was attended by Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti, Iraq's permanent envoy to the United Nations in Geneva.

Addresses Conference on War Victims

JN0109180893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1433 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] Geneva, 1 Sep (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, has said that respect for international humanitarian law, in a manner that achieves the objectives of the law, requires a host of conditions, including the definition and implementation of its rules in a manner that does not give politics precedence over law.

In a speech to the International Conference on the Protection of War Victims in Geneva today, 'Aziz said that this requires neutrality, objectivity, the renunciation of selectivity and double standards, and explicit and public diagnoses by relevant international bodies, particularly the ones concerned with sponsoring international law.

Tariq 'Aziz added: Therefore, the conference is being held for the basic objective of securing a stronger international response to the collective breaches of international humanitarian law and a total commitment to do all that is possible to guarantee the protection of war victims.

He said: In our view, this basic objective represents a noble goal. However, the current world situation indicates a political, legal, and moral setback that needs to be reversed. The international humanitarian law and its development have been influenced by moral, religious, and humanitarian principles and values. Therefore, this law should remain an integral and a binding world legal code. However, motivated by their political interests, some states are violating and distorting this law.

He added: We are meeting today to draw effective guidelines to prevent suffering resulting from armed conflicts, express rejection of unacceptable practices, and to deter violations and hold those involved in such violations to account.

Tariq 'Aziz affirmed: In our assessment, in this effort to tackle the current situation of our contemporary world, developments must be diagnosed in a manner free of transient, narrow, and selfish political ends and motives, for such ends have often been the main reason for undermining the credibility of the international humanitarian law.

He said: Perhaps my country is aware of this fact more than any other country as a result of its experience, which has proved that despite all justifications raised in this context, our country has been and still is the victim of basic violations of the international humanitarian law on the pretext of enforcing international legitimacy.

Referring to the 30-state aggression against Iraq, the deputy prime minister said that the hostile activities of the so-called anti-Iraq coalition show disrespect for the basic rules of the humanitarian international law pertaining to war activities, if not a premeditated failure to abide by them.

He said that, as a result of such activities, there have heavy human and material losses and a disruption in the overall civil life outside the theatre of war in Iraq. He said that this is a glaring example of a breach in the international humanitarian law, especially by states that claim to be sponsors of human rights.

Tariq 'Aziz explained that the international humanitarian law denounces and bans such actions. He said that such serious violations were committed for purely political reasons, as proved by the statements of some U.S. officials who bragged about their intention to return Iraq to the stone age.

Tariq 'Aziz spoke about other aspects of Iraq's treatment that conflict with the international humanitarian law and human rights. In this respect, he referred to the UN Security Council's resolution imposing a comprehensive blockade on Iraq. He said: In its resolution, the UN Security Council mentioned that foodstuffs, medicines, and medical requirements are not included in the blockade imposed on Iraq.

He added: However, the UN Security Council completely ignored the most recent international humanitarian law provisions on banning the recourse to the policy of starving civilians as one of the measures adopted during wars.

'Aziz said: The council was content to exclude medicines and medical material and requirements from the blockade but did not pay any attention to the measures that would secure the means to finance the purchase of these materials by Iraq.

Tariq 'Aziz added: Although the acts of hostility have ended, most of the decisions the UN Sanctions Committee adopts show that the policy to perpetuate the blockade in a vengeful manner that exceeds all permissible bounds, including the Council's resolutions, still prevails. Otherwise, how can one justify not approving Iraqi purchases such as pencils, coloring chalks, and paper for printing school books, rods for the fabrication of hospital beds, and even cloth for wrapping the dead? There are many such examples and time does not permit us to list them in detail.

The deputy prime minister said: Does the blockade now constitute an objective or a means? If the first is the answer, then it is a violation of the UN Charter provisions, and if the second is the answer, then it is a means to attain political objectives and not to guarantee that the UN Security Council resolutions are implemented.

He added that statements by the highest political echelons in some alliance countries say that lifting the blockade imposed on Iraq depends on the change of the political system in Iraq. Where then is the international humanitarian law?

Tariq 'Aziz said that it is not difficult to explain these contradictions because they stem from selfish policies that have nothing to do with the common interests of the international community, which are the basis of international humanitarian law.

He said: The situation has reached a point where the course of what is known as the UN humanitarian program has been changed by some of the influential countries and has become a means for them to attain their political objectives.

Tariq 'Aziz concluded his speech by stressing that the establishment of the required vehicles for securing respect for the international humanitarian law, or the use of existing vehicles for this purpose should not result in their being used as a means for attaining political objectives.

He also stressed that the International Committee of the Red Cross should not hesitate in resorting to existing legal instruments and means to reaffirm the collective responsibility of the countries that are parties to the Geneva conventions, having them assume this responsibility to secure the respect for the international humanitarian law, especially since there is no doubt that the comprehensive and universal nature of these conventions has made them binding.

Two Major Banks Announce Increased Deposits, Profits

JN0109143893 Baghdad INA in English 1340 GMT 1 Sep 93

Baghdad, Sep 1, INA—Al-Rashid Bank, the second largest bank in Iraq, announced that the profits netted 119 million dinars in 1992 with an increase of 41 million dinars compared with 1991.

A bank source said that the deposits amounted 14 billion dinars in 1992, against eight billion dinars in 1991.

Meanwhile, al-Rafidayn Bank announced that the deposits amounted 22 billion dinars in 1992, and the total amount of the deposits of the two main banks rose to 36 billion dinars against 21 billion dinars in 1991.

Ministries Ordered Not To Refer Cases to Presidency

JN0209125993 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has instructed the ministries and departments not associated with ministries to resolve citizens' problems and study cases presented to them in accordance with the law and the powers to which they are entitled. They must do this without referring to the Presidential Office, unless the issue is beyond their powers or concerns a request to establish someone's right against unfairness or an unfair person.

This was stated in a circular issued by the Presidential Council to execute the president's orders. Following is the text of the circulation:

From the complaints and requests submitted by citizens concerning cases that can be looked into by ministries and departments not associated with ministries, it has been observed that most of these agencies, when they wish to shun their responsibilities or avoid providing necessary services to citizens, can find no excuse other than telling the citizen that his request runs contrary to instructions issued by the Presidency or that the matter requires the approval of the leader president, may God protect him, even in minor and secondary matters that fall among the basic tasks of these agencies.

Therefore, the leader president has ordered an end to this negative way, which involves a major risk in dealing with the citizens' issues. If such answers are repeated, they will be considered as concealing evil intentions and those who are proven to have made them will be dealt with on that basis.

Consequently, the ministries and departments not associated with the ministries must resolve the citizens' problem and look into the cases presented to them in accordance with the law and the powers to which they are entitled without referring to the Presidential Office unless the issue is beyond their powers or concerns a request to establish someone's right against unfairness or an unfair person, as decided by the minister, provided it does not violate the laws in force.

[Signed] Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, chief of the Presidential Office

Cabinet May Be Asked To Recognize PLO 3 or 5 Sep

TA0209045493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] A senior source in Jerusalem estimated that the cabinet may be asked tomorrow or at its next meeting on Sunday [5 September] to approve the agreement for mutual recognition with the PLO. This was learned by our political correspondent Shlomo Raz. This, despite the difficulties encountered in the contacts with the PLO held in Europe by Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir. Mr. Savir will return to Israel this evening from Brussels together with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. According to what has been learned, the two men have overcome the difficulties regarding the issues of principle between Israel and the PLO. The differences now mainly revolve around formulations to abrogate the Palestinian Covenant.

Our Washington correspondent Arye Golan reported that in the indirect contacts for mutual recognition currently being held between the PLO and Israel, there were still some outstanding differences which were described by Israeli sources as problems with phrasing. The major sticking point is Israel's demand that the PLO abrogate the clauses in the Palestinian Covenant which call for Israel's destruction. PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat does not have a guaranteed majority in the PLO's Executive Committee, which is discussing this matter. Our correspondent notes that the secret negotiations between Israel and the PLO are being held with the mediation of Norwegian officials.

Source: 'A Few Words' Slow Signing of Agreement

NC0209093493 Paris AFP in English 0907 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] Jerusalem, Sept 1 (AFP)—Just a handful of words are holding up agreement on a declaration of mutual recognition from the PLO and Israel, a senior foreign ministry official told AFP on Thursday [2 September].

"The only blockage between Israel and the PLO is around a few words in the joint declaration on mutual recognition," said the official, who refused to be named.

The declaration follows up on a historic agreement between the two sides on an autonomy deal to start in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

"Israel has proposed a formula, the Palestinians have agreed to a majority of that proposal, but we are now debating certain words."

He refused to say what the sticking points were.

Further secret contacts between Israeli and Palestine Liberation Organisation representatives were expected to take place in the coming days after meetings in Oslo earlier this week.

"Even if these discussions are not successfully concluded, it will not halt the signature of the accord. This is not a pre-condition," the official said.

Israel hopes the autonomy deal will be signed next week at the 11th round of Middle East peace talks in Washington.

Rabin: PLO, Terrorists Do Not Threaten Israel

TA0109135893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] Yitzhaq Rabin has said that the PLO and other terror organizations do not pose a threat to Israel's existence, and anybody arguing as much would be offending the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. The prime minister was speaking during a phone-in program for young students.

He noted that the efforts to attain an agreement with the PLO was based on a dual Israeli commitment made by Menahem Begin in the Camp David accords and by Yitzhaq Shamir in the Madrid conference, whereby Israel would give self-government to the Palestinians. Israel has not yet withdrawn from even one centimeter, Rabin said, whereas in exchange for peace with one single country the Likud withdrew from 80 percent of the territory conquered in the Six-Day War.

Replying to questions by young listeners, Mr. Rabin said his government received a mandate in the elections to conduct a different policy than that of the Likud in order to bring peace and security to Israel. The closure changed everything by separating Israel and the territories, and it instilled a feeling of security to 5 million Israeli citizens. The people will be willing to make painful compromises for the sake of peace, he said. Peace is attainable, and we will do everything in our power to attain it.

Rabin stressed that he does not want a binational state or a Palestinian state between Israel and Jordan and that he foresees cooperation between Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinians.

Peres, Omani Minister Meet 'Secretly'

TA0109183493

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 1 September carries a report by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik who notes that as part of the efforts to to bring about an Israeli-Palestinian agreement, "Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres secretly met the Omani foreign minister on 5 July."

Peres on Agreement With, Recognition of PLO

TA0109201793 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1840 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Studio interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Yoram Ronen and political correspondent Gadi Sukenik in the weekly "Moqed" program—live]

[Text] [Ronen] Good evening. An agreement between Israel and the PLO is a possibility that seemed imaginary only a week ago. Tonight, however, we hear about secret talks in Madrid; an imminent agreement between Israel, Syria, and Lebanon; about a pullout from the security zone; and later, perhaps, a pullout or a withdrawal from the Golan Heights. There are many questions and uncertainties and a great deal of true and imaginary information. The man to whom we will address these questions is Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, our guest tonight. Good evening to you, sir.

[Peres] A good and blessed evening.

[Ronen] Good evening to our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik. With your permission, Mr. Peres, let us start with a few informative questions. First of all, is the report originating with a PLO source true that secret talks have been under way in Madrid between Israel, Syria, and Lebanon about signing an agreement on a withdrawal from Lebanon and in the Golan Heights?

[Peres] It is not true.

[Ronen] Do you totally deny it?

[Peres] Let us not waste our time. It is not true.

[Sukenik] You told us yesterday that efforts and talks are constantly under way to expand the circle of peace, and I suppose now is a good time to do that. Could you elaborate on this point?

[Peres] Look, there are a few countries that have been secretly applauding the peace process. What we tell them is: If you really are so much in favor of peace, state as much publicly. After all, most of these countries refused to have relations with Israel because the Palestinian problem had not been solved. Now that the Palestinians agree to a solution, there is no reason why countries such as Morocco, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan should not sign a peace agreement. They must also make an overt and public contribution for the sake of peace.

[Sukenik] Have the contacts with them started?

[Peres] We cannot start, and we do not have contacts. But the Americans are probably doing that, and we will also ask the Europeans to do that.

[Sukenik] Was your secret meeting in Cairo on 5 July with the Omani foreign minister, under the very nose of the journalists in your entourage, part of those efforts? This had nothing to do with the Americans.

[Peres] If it was secret, why do you expect me to answer?

[Sukenik] Are you denying it?

[Peres] I have given you my answer.

[Ronen] If so, Mr. Peres, let us move on to the opposition's arguments about a catastrophe. One emotional argument they, as well as others who are not staunch oppositionists, make is: We are actually holding open contacts with the PLO, which is a terror organization responsible for the death of hundreds of innocent Jews and Israelis. Do you feel at all right about these negotiations?

[Peres] Who have we been negotiating with up until now? Does the opposition not know that the heads of the delegation in Washington flew in broad daylight to Tunis to consult and receive instructions from the PLO leadership? Is this news?

[Ronen] Nevertheless, there is a difference between negotiating with Faysal al-Husayni and Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, who live in the territories, and negotiating with the very leaders of the PLO.

[Peres] Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi has said whom he gets his instructions from. So, where is the difference? I believe that the resume of Mr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, with whom Mr. Shamir met, includes the fact that he was the deputy founder of the PLO. So, what difference does it make? Why is one acceptable and not the other? Who should we meet with? With the shadows of the past or with the facts of today? If the PLO, just like the FLN [Algeria's National Liberation Front], ceases to be a terror organization striving to annihilate Israel it will become a political party with all sorts of aspirations. De Gaulle did that, and the French did that. And what about Egypt? Do we not have a history of wars with it? Do we not have a history of wars with Syria? Should we negotiate with the shadows of the past?

[Ronen] In other words, you say peace must be made with enemies.

[Peres] I say that peace must be made with people who were enemies and who today want peace. If they remain enemies, then we will engage in negotiations. That is why it is so important for the PLO to publicly state that the hostility is over and that there is a new situation.

[Sukenik] Do you believe you will manage to persuade the heads of the opposition, such as Binyamin Netanyahu, that the PLO is becoming a political party and we must accept that?

[Peres] First of all, I am sure that many people in the opposition think like we do, just as in our midst there may be people who are of one mind with the opposition. I have a suggestion for Mr. Netanyahu. When the late Menahem Begin returned from Camp David, he said: We are faced with a serious and historic matter. I appeal to all the parties, including my own, not to vote along partisan lines in the Knesset; each Knesset member should follow his conscience and vote accordingly.

I say the same today. I appeal to the Likud: Dear friends, I am sure that Mr. Rabin, who is also the chairman of our party, will agree that each one of our own Knesset members follow his conscience and vote accordingly. I appeal to the Likud, who has some very serious people. After all, we jointly bear responsibility for the future of the nation.

[Sukenik] Are you asking the Likud to allow its members freedom to vote?

[Peres] To allow the freedom to vote to everybody, to all the parties. Mr. Netanyahu keeps saying that he is in favor of changing the electoral system and is against the proliferation of parties. Here is his test.

[Sukenik] Do you think there will be some surprises?

[Peres] I do not know. Why surprises? I think this would be the most correct thing to do. They may peruse all the documents and facts. This would be the right thing to do for the sake of the people and their future.

[Ronen] It is hard to believe that the Likud will accept your proposal.

[Peres] Why not? We agreed to it. I do not understand. Yoram, why are you pessimistic? They asked us, and we agreed. I see no reason why the Likud, when it is in the opposition, should not proceed the way we did when we were in the opposition.

[Ronen] We will have to wait and see. Meanwhile, it seems to me you still have to persuade the PLO to accept the proposal you made them, that is, that the PLO publicly announce that it renounces the Palestinian National Covenant and terror and that in exchange Israel would be willing to recognize the PLO. This has not happened yet.

[Peres] I have no need to persuade them. There is an understanding between us and the Palestinian coalition about a declaration of principles [previous three words in English]. This stands on its own and does not hinge on any recognition of the PLO or vice versa. This is what the Palestinians committed themselves to, and this is what they must sign. If only this issue remains pending, the heads of the delegations in Washington will sign it, as is normally done in such cases.

[Sukenik] An Israel-Palestine declaration of principles?

[Peres] A declaration that includes Gaza and Jericho First. The difference with this agreement—I am not talking about the details, but about the main issues—is that the current declaration of principles includes both Gaza and Jericho.

[Sukenik] In the meantime, I understand that there have been disagreements in the last few days and hours between Israeli and PLO representatives in Oslo and Brussels, not about the principles but about the wording. In the event that an accord is reached, and chances are that it will, is there a chance that you or even the prime minister might travel to the signing ceremony in Washington with, say, Faruq Qaddumi?

[Peres] We have not discussed this issue at all. Also, I am sure that neither the prime minister nor myself will discuss it before this become a practical question.

[Sukenik] But you are not ruling out such a possibility.

[Peres] I do not want to dwell on hypothetical issues. As soon as the PLO issues the aforementioned statement, we will meet and decide who will travel, how the agreement will be signed, etc. The situation at this stage is that there is explicit agreement on three points: 1) a declaration of principles; 2) in parallel with the declaration, the Palestinian organizations will announce the cessation of terror; and 3) that this should take place next week in Washington. In fact, we, the Americans, and the Palestinians agreed from the outset that the first week of this round of talks should be devoted to creating a propitious climate as the delegations continue to meet regularly. Now we are awaiting developments. One thing does not depend on the other.

[Ronen] Let us say, Mr. Peres, that the PLO leaders accept our proposal or request and announce the end of the intifadah and that there will be no more terror attacks in the territories. Do you think 'Arafat is strong enough to influence all the PLO factions—Jibril, Hawatimah, not to mention Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]—to really stop the intifadah?

[Peres] I think one thing: that it is not Israel's job to struggle with Hamas and with Hawatimah. It is the job of the Palestinian majority. We are in a bizarre sport, where we must play a role that is not ours. If there is a Palestinian majority in favor of peace, as I believe there is, it should be allowed to wage that struggle. Incidentally, there is no need to be patronizing. The Jordanians, thank God, run their own affairs. They fight the fundamentalists and Hamas, and the Syrians also do that. So, why should we do that for somebody else? Let the Palestinians in Gaza manage their own affairs.

[Sukenik] Mr. Peres, in the course of the secret and not so secret contacts, were the Palestinians given any promise about the future that is not put in writing? Do they have any grounds to believe that if everything goes all right in the five years of the interim arrangement that Israel will in some way contemplate a Palestinian state?

[Peres] Whatever they believe in their hearts is their own thing. I am not a censor of their heart. I am also sure that they want more than then got, just as we want more than we got. If your question is whether we made additional or secret commitments, my answer is unequivocally: No, there are no secret or additional commitments. However, and this is my own personal opinion, Israel must do everything to make this important and historic experiment succeed, both politically and economically. I do not see us as people haggling in a bazaar or a market. We are not trying to cheat anybody; we do not want to pretend or pressure anybody. We regard the Palestinians as a people that want to manage their own affairs, as a neighbor with whom we want to live in peace, people with whom we coexist amid mutual respect, as all people must live with their fellow men even if it belongs to another nation or religion.

[Sukenik] Are you categorically ruling out the possibility of a Palestinian state ever in the future if everything works out all right and coexistence is, perhaps not perfect, but reasonable?

[Peres] I think it would be a historic mistake to establish a Palestinian state, since the problem is in two spheres: 1) the relationship between Jordan and the Palestinians and 2) the relationship between both of them and us.

As for the first, Jordan and the Palestinians actually constitute one problem. If two solutions are provided to a single problem two new problems will be created. There would be ongoing trouble on both sides of the Jordan River.

[Sukenik] That is, a confederation is better.

[Peres] For the sake of peace in the Middle East and both countries, it is better to attain an agreement before and instead of war. As far as we are concerned, this is important from another point of view. We have firmly insisted, as I am sure our successors will too, that a foreign army should not cross the Jordan River. We, and the prime minister, first and foremost, firmly insisted on the security issues in the course of the negotiations. We may have been flexible on one or another issue, but on one issue we were not flexible at all, and that was the question of security because we are also responsible for the future of our children.

[Ronen] We will yet get to the security issue, Mr. Peres. However, I would like to remind you that only a few weeks ago, in a cabinet session in which the ministers of Meretz demanded a decision in favor of holding direct negotiations with the PLO, both Prime Minister Rabin and you objected to it. That was only a few weeks ago.

[Peres] And we still do.

[Ronen] Is it a question of semantics? Are you saying you are not negotiating with the PLO, at a time when you meet in Oslo with Abu-al-'Ala, one of the PLO leaders?

[Peres] Here we go again with the same old story. It makes no difference who we meet with. As long as it does not renounce those clauses in the Palestinian National Covenant calling for Israel's destruction, as long as it does not unequivocally announce that it recognizes Israel's right to exist in peace and security, as long as it does not state that all future problems will be solved through negotiations we will not recognize the PLO as an organization. We have not and we will not recognize it.

[Ronen] So how do you describe the contacts you held with PLO leaders in Europe?

[Peres] A process of change on their part, not on mine. First of all, formally speaking, I did not hold negotiations with them, but both myself and Mr. Rabin knew about it. We discussed every detail and every issue, we meticulously checked each and every step. We informed this organization that we would not recognize it unless it changes its nature. More than we can change our attitude toward the PLO, the PLO must change for its own good, not for us. It must change for its people and for its own good. An era is over. What is the meaning of peace? Is it to continue terror, war, hatred, and destruction? Therefore, our change would be a response to another change and it cannot begin with us. That is what we tried and are still trying to explain.

[Sukenik] Did you and the prime minister have any doubts about the contacts with the PLO? Did you believe in their genuine good will straight away, or was it a gradual process?

[Peres] First of all, all negotiations entail an element of certainty, an element of doubt, and an element of gambling. Only people who speak theoretically are not bothered by such considerations. De Gaulle is constantly cited as an example. Look at what he declared. He said he would not negotiate with the FLN in Algeria as long as it engaged in terror, but in the end he negotiated with it. The FLN was officially recognized the moment it ceased being a terrorist organization and became a political one.

[Ronen] When did you persuade Rabin that the contacts you were holding with the PLO leaders were really worth pursuing? After all, it was a real turning point in the traditional policy of this government.

[Peres] Your description is incorrect. We sat together, talked, and exchanged views. It is not that I persuaded him. We both had to persuade ourselves. We also had to tackle some theoretical questions. For example: If the dreams of all sorts of people came true and the PLO ceased to exist, what would replace it? Who would we negotiate with? Seeing that neither of us is prepared to turn this country into another Yugoslavia or remain the masters of 2 million Palestinians against their will, it was our duty to check out all the alternatives. We checked them together; we did not twist each other's arm. Most times we met tete-a-tete and very carefully and candidly, as can be done in such meetings, thought what was better or worse, what can be done and what cannot be done. We saw that the negotiations in Washington were getting nowhere and we had to come up with an alternative.

[Ronen] You sat tete-a-tete, and I wonder how come the defense establishment and the IDF's General Staff were not let in on it. Both the chief of staff and his deputy say they foresee serious security problems.

[Peres] The people who met tete-a-tete were two former prime ministers, two former defense minister, and one former chief of staff. Do not forget that. In other words, we were not inexperienced people.

[Ronen] Is this your answer to the chief of staff and the deputy chief of staff?

[Peres] I respect what the chief of staff and deputy chief of staff have said. It is their duty to point out the difficulties inherent in the negotiations. Was the issue of autonomy only raised yesterday morning? When the issue of autonomy cropped up the General Staff was consulted. This issue did not crop up as a result of our recent negotiations. All of the difficulties which the chief of staff and deputy chief of staff described result from the autonomy process, which started 13 or 14 years ago.

[Ronen] Today, however, there is an agreement in which the word autonomy does not even appear.

[Peres] What is the difference between self-rule and autonomy....

[Ronen, interrupting] A difference of semantics?

[Peres] Self-rule [shilton 'atzmi] is the Hebrew word for autonomy. There is absolutely no difference between the two. I want to ask you something: Are you willing to travel to Gaza today? Is the situation in Gaza that good today? On the other hand, are you willing to travel to Tabah today? The answer is undoubtedly affirmative. Now, what is the difference between Tabah and Gaza? The difference is that in Tabah we have peace, whereas in Gaza there is no peace. The General Staff is not in charge of the political aspect. As far as the difficulties are concerned, there are difficulties in Tabah and Gaza. It is the duty of the army officers to express their opinion and point out the difficulties. They did not express any political opinion or conclusions. They did not say that as a result of the difficulties we must avoid the agreement. To the best of my knowledge, the military echelon is unanimous in the opinion that it is impossible to solve the problem by military means alone—a political solution is essential. Naturally the political issue raises other difficulties, and they were honest about these.

Let me tell you something else, we are at the end of 100 years of hatred, hostility, and suspicion. This situation has created habits and institutions, and I am not referring here to military institutions. People have gotten used to living like this. It is extremely difficult for everybody to change this. People cannot make up their minds whether we are changing the situation or leaving it as it is. This is why I chose the example of Gaza and Tabah.

[Ronen] Let us talk about another example. What will happen to an Israeli vehicle on its way to Gaza? To a Qatif Bloc settler, for example, who will want to reach Gaza, or an Israeli who will want to reach the Jordan Valley via Jericho and will run into a Palestinian militia roadblock that will stop him?

[Peres] An excellent question, to which I have two answers. First, what happens to an Israeli car driving from Cairo to the pyramids? There is somebody who protects it.

[Ronen] Will the Palestinian militia defend them?

[Peres] Why are you using the word militia? They will have a police force, and they will also have an interest in tourism. Generally speaking, they will be directed by different interests. You keep describing things as though nothing has changed. In the present agreement the government undertook to provide protection for every Israeli in the territories, whether he sleeps there, works there, or travels there. We will use every measure and put all the necessary means at the IDF's the police's disposal to ensure the protection and freedom of movement of every Israeli in the territories—whether in Gaza, Judaea, or Samaria.

[Sukenik] If there is an act of terrorism, for example, will the IDF forces decide to storm into the center of Khan Yunus to locate a suspect?

[Peres] Let us not forget the main thing: The object of this agreement is to put an end to acts of terror.

[Sukenik] We are not so naive to think, however, that Jibril....

[Peres, interrupting] If a fire starts, we will send out all our fire engines.

[Sukenik] Nevertheless I want to understand....

[Peres, interrupting] We will retain overall responsibility for the security of Israel and the Israelis in the territories. We have not forgone the authority and the responsibility for providing security against threats to Israel or the personal security of Israelis in the territories.

[Ronen] Will Israel see to 'Arafat's security when he comes to reside in Jericho?

[Peres] No, no.

[Ronen] Let me recall what Knesset Member [MK] Rehav'am Ze'evi said yesterday. He said that if 'Arafat comes to Jericho he will do so at his personal peril.

[Peres] I do not want to argue with this or that MK. We are defending not only our country, but our democracy as well. Whoever threatens our democracy is threatening the country's security. Nobody is entitled to make such threats. If 'Arafat comes—and I still do not see this happening, because they have not changed what requires change so far—he will have to see to his own security. He will not be under an Israeli protectorate. Just as we will defend the Israelis, the Palestinians will have to defend themselves. Today we have a situation wherein approximately 3,000 Palestinians have been killed by their compatriots, while we in fact did not give them the opportunity for self-defense. Let them defend themselves.

[Sukenik] Mr. Peres, the present agreement allows all the Jewish settlements and settlers to remain intact, at least in the area stipulated under the Gaza-Jericho First plan. Do you think that as time goes by, the number of Jewish settlers will gradually decrease?

[Peres] I have no idea. Why should I speculate? Whoever wants to stay can stay. It is our duty to provide the security.

[Ronen] What will you tell a settler....

[Peres, interrupting] We did not raise the issue of settlements....

[Ronen, interrupting] I want to ask you specifically, Mr. Peres: What will you tell a settler in 'Ofra, Qedumim, Elon More, whom the Israeli Government encouraged to settle. Now he will either have to live under Palestinian rule or be uprooted from his home. What will you tell such a settler?

[Peres] If he comes to me, I will tell him that if he decides to remain there we will provide him protection. What he decides is his own decision, not the government's.

[Ronen] It is hard to believe that he will decide to remain there under Palestinian rule.

[Peres] In that case, I propose you speak to him. If he comes to me, however, I can tell him what the government has to say: If you remain, it is our duty to protect you and your family wherever you go, and we will do so.

[Sukenik] Mr. Peres, is Israel raising funds—perhaps not from our own coffers—to save the PLO from bankruptcy? Perhaps this financial crisis is one of the main reasons which induced them to enter this process. Are we their sponsors today?

[Peres] First, we are not speaking here about the PLO, rather about the Palestinians in the territories. Now, even before we started raising funds abroad we started raising funds here in Israel. We do not want the Palestinians to work in Israel, and therefore we are interested in creating jobs in the territories. The Israeli Government has decided to fund new jobs in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. We are also recommending that other governments follow suit in this respect. Incidentally, I am convinced that if the solution is only political, and does not include an economic element, this could result in failure.

[Sukenik] Is it a race against time? Israel and the PLO against Hamas?

[Peres] No, no. We are struggling here against bad habits. We are responsible for the fact that the workers of the territories have gotten used to work in Israel, and this has created the phenomenon of stabbings, as well as other things. Now there is a separation between the nations and economic cooperation between all the parties. This is why we are investing in the territories. Two weeks ago the government decided to add 17 million shekels—if I recall correctly—to decrease unemployment, because this too is a motivation for terrorism. In order to fight terrorism, you have to start the struggle at a much earlier stage than the shooting stage. The struggle has to be directed at the prevention of such a motivation for terrorism.

[Ronen] Mr. Peres, people say that you are a man of vision. Let us talk here about your vision for the next few years. How do you picture the continuation of the process? Do you see peace between us and the Palestinian people, Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan in the near future? Are we closer to peace with our neighboring Arab states than we were several months ago?

[Peres] Mr. Shamir has said that the sea has not changed and that the Arabs have not changed. It looks as though Mr. Shamir looks too much at the sea and at the Arabs, and not enough at the land's horizons. We are living in a new world; as a result of the end of the Cold War the Arabs will not receive free weapons as they have in the past. As a result of the economic developments in Asia and Latin America the Arabs do not enjoy an overriding majority in the United Nations. Nowadays, when it comes to raising money, the threat of fundamentalism outweighs anti-Zionist sentiments. The Arabs, al-Asad, Husayn, have no other choice than peace. I am personally convinced that so far we have only accomplished a small part of the work—namely to settle the conflicts of the past. Now we have to start building a new Middle East. I do not think this is a mere cliche. I am unimpressed by people who refer to my vision or lack thereof. It is an imperative, we must water the land, feed the people, give hope to the young generation. We have to purchase an entrance ticket to the 21st century, which will be—if I may say so—a century of unique quality. Whoever will have more education, science, faith, and moral values will prevail. As far as the Jewish nation is concerned, for 2,000 years we had a message without a country. We do not want to turn into a country without a message. We have returned not only to our country, but also to our heritage and our true path. I am a Jew who is directed not by a vision, but by faith. It is difficult to be a Jew without faith.

[Ronen] Thank you very much, Mr. Peres. I want to wish you a successful journey to Brussels tomorrow morning.

IDF Preparing Pullout Plans for Autonomy Accord

TA0209105893 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 2 Sep 93 p 5

[Report by military correspondent Dani Sade]

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has started to prepare for the new situation prior to the signing of the autonomy accord with the Palestinians. The General Staff yesterday held discussions on the agreement's consequences with representatives from the Planning Branch, the Intelligence Branch, the Southern Command, the Central Command, and the General Staff Branch. Some of the Army's plans will be presented to the cabinet at its meeting Sunday [5 September].

A senior military source said yesterday that the Army's staff work was aimed at finding the best solutions to assure a smooth withdrawal from the areas the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will evacuate under the agreement while noting all the problems which will crop up in its wake. The work is being carried out by the Planning Branch and other units, including the Civil Administration.

Among other things, the IDF will present its evacuation plan from bases in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, its redeployment around the Gaza Strip, plans to control and safeguard the traffic axes, and the manpower and budgetary resources required in the wake of the withdrawal from the territories.

The senior source said that the solutions the Army is working on will present all the risks and difficulties involved and will try to provide answers to them. Nevertheless, he made it clear that some of the problem will be resolved only several months after the implementation of the plan begins.

Shahaq on Security Issues

TA0209101393 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 2 Sep 93

["Special" interview with Deputy Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq by army affairs correspondent Netan'el Semrik; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Semrik] Following the approval of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement and the recent spate of media reports, it appears that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], of all bodies, is the one that is raising, or predicting, most of the difficulties when autonomy is implemented.

[Shahaq] It is not the IDF's task to raise obstacles. The IDF is responsible for solving problems or offering security solutions regarding the agreement that the government has decided upon. The IDF will do this to the best of its ability. At the same time, the IDF's role is also to present the clearest and most comprehensive picture possible after it has studied the data. There are several things that we will have to do. We will have to study the data. What we have now is a framework agreement that was approved by the cabinet. The IDF will have to study the agreement and analyze its components in detail. The framework is not the actual agreement. It is impossible to begin implementing the agreement tomorrow just by reading its framework. In order to implement the agreement's directives, we will have to sit down within the IDF, study the agreement, break it down into details, and decide what we think is required to maintain security. Then we will sit down with the other side and see how we can jointly guarantee an adequate level of security. This will demand a lot of work from us. We will present our conclusions, receive the political echelon's approval, discuss it with the other side, and then move to implement it.

[Semrik] Do you think that the IDF should participate in the negotiations committees which meet on specific issues and aspects?

[Shahaq] I think that the IDF should be a part of any body currently dealing with concrete security issues.

[Semrik] To what degree will the IDF and the other security forces be effective in guaranteeing the security of Israeli citizens moving freely on the roads in the Jericho region and the Gaza Strip?

[Shahaq] There will definitely be a redeployment of the IDF. The present situation is comfortable for us. We can get to any location at any time. We do not need to coordinate anything. We control every location at every moment. Some of these things will change, and therefore, from certain aspects, if terrorist attacks continue, guaranteeing the safety of Israelis will become a much more complicated, complex, and difficult mission to carry out.

[Semrik] Staying with that issue, Major General Shahaq, the document states that the IDF will redeploy in agreed upon locations outside the major population centers, such as refugee camps for example. Will this not give Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] greater freedom to operate, train, set up bases, and perhaps even launch katyushas?

[Shahaq] Whatever happens, the Palestinians will be responsible for their people. I assume that the other side wants quiet otherwise it would not have sought an agreement. Therefore, the Palestinian side will have to honor its responsibilities. As for the Palestinian opposition, I do not know what they could do and speculation is pointless. What we will have to do is find effective answers to all contingencies.

[Semrik] For example?

[Shahaq] For example, terrorist attacks perpetrated against Israeli settlements from within that territory, whether inside or outside the Gaza Strip, or attempts to disrupt Israeli traffic or attack the IDF in these areas. We will have to sit down and find answers to these problems.

[Semrik] Do you think that the IDF's array of responses might include sending troops back into the Gaza Strip if terrorists perpetrate an attack inside the Green Line and then flee to the Gaza Strip?

[Shahaq] No, we cannot permit terrorist attacks against us, certainly not inside the State of Israel or against Israelis anywhere. We will continue waging a war against terrorism wherever it raises its head. I believe that we will not be alone in our fight against terrorism and that there may be other forces that will also combat it.

[Semrik] Do you really believe that armed Palestinian policemen will be able to stand up to the fugitives?

[Shahaq] I do not know what the Palestinian police force is like today. I know that if certain elements wish to realize their control over the territory, they will have to prove their mettle, and that includes suppressing oppositionist elements attempting to undermine their control.

[Semrik] How dangerous are the Palestinian or Fatah battalions from other Arab countries until a strong Palestinian force is established?

[Shahaq] I assume that this will be part of the dialogue that will necessarily take place over the coming months. We will have to see the police force composition, and determine who is responsible for public order in these places. All these issues will be raised for discussion and our reservations will be made clear.

[Semrik] Do we have reservations about such a possibility, although it is still theoretical.

[Shahaq] We have to examine who and what we are talking about. If one is talking about known terrorists becoming part of the security forces, we will definitely reject this possibility.

[Semrik] To what degree was the IDF involved or updated on the Palestinian-Israeli document of principles, at least regarding its security aspects?

[Shahaq] That is not a secret. We knew about the document as soon as it was presented to the Israeli cabinet. After the cabinet was apprised of the document, we also learned its contents.

[Semrik] Do you see a problem with the fact that the IDF, having to change its deployment in a very short time and under the very difficult constraints you presented, was not updated earlier or consulted while the documents basic guidelines were being formulated.

[Shahaq] I assume that whoever handled the negotiations and reached the agreement knew what he was doing. Since it is not the IDF's responsibility to reach agreements, it was decided to do things this way, probably with good reason, and therefore, I do not occupy myself with this question.

[Semrik] Do you fear that with the implementation of autonomy and the IDF's withdrawal, the settlements in the Lakhish region and the Gaza Strip will find themselves in a similar situation to Israel's northern border settlements prior to Operation Accountability?

[Shahaq] I believe we are moving toward a peace arrangement and not some other situation. We may encounter some further difficulties on the way to a peace agreement, for which answers must be found. However, I believe that everything is being done to reach a peace agreement, not something else.

Fatah Said Responsible for Half of Terror Attacks

TA0109155393 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Sep 93 p A6

[Report by Eytan Rabin and ITIM]

[Text] "Of all times, now that we are going through a peace process and an era of dialogue, we need broader and more focused intelligence," Brigadier General Doron Tamir, chief of the Intelligence Corps, stated yesterday in a meeting with military reporters.

Findings released yesterday show that Fatah is the largest terror organization in the territories and that Fatah was involved in half the attacks in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The findings further show that 49 percent of the attacks in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in 1993 were perpetrated by Fatah, 4.8 percent by Jibril's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, 23.8 percent by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and 4.1 percent by Islamic Jihad. The rest of the attacks were local actions perpetrated by other organizations.

Some 145 terror squads, including 72 belonging to Fatah, were uncovered in the West Bank. According to senior intelligence officers, most of the attacks perpetrated by Fatah were not major and mainly entailed firebombs, sporadic fire, running war materiel, and hitting collaborators. In contrast, the attacks perpetrated by Hamas were large-scale and spectacular.

According to the intelligence officers, the number of attacks on the security forces dropped significantly in the five months since the beginning of the closure. A significant drop was also registered in the total of wanted men in the West Bank (61), about half of them armed Fatah members. In the Gaza Strip, the number of wanted men rose to 67.

The IDF has for the first time put out a mug book with the pictures, names, and affiliations of all the wanted men in the Gaza Strip. Initially, about 200 books were distributed to commanders in the Gaza Strip, while commanders in the West Bank will get them at a later stage.

It was noted that the current drop in Fatah's terror activities is due to lack of money.

New Settlement Planned for Property Near Bethlehem

TA0109165293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] Infrastructure work for the establishment of a new neighborhood near the settlement of Efrat will commence within several days. The custodian of abandoned property in the Civil Administration has signed a building contract with the Giv'at Tamar society, which includes Knesset Member Hanan Porat and Uri Ari'el, secretary of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Some 400 families are registered in this society. A copy of the contract reached the hands of our correspondent Gil Litman. According to the contract, an area near Solomon's Pools will be leased out and 400 housing units will be built. The Construction and Housing Ministry confirmed that the area was leased to the society, but the government will not invest any funds there and the expense will be entirely shouldered by society members.

Reserves Colonel Sentenced for Spying for KGB

TA0209081093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] A serious case of espionage on behalf of the former Soviet Union was revealed for publication. Shim'on Levinson, a reserves IDF [Israel Defense Forces] colonel, was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment this morning. The Tel Aviv District Court, presided over by Judge Eliyahu Winograd convicted the defendant of turning over information to the enemy, aggravated espionage, and maintaining contact with a foreign agent. Only afterwards, did the judge authorize publication of the espionage affair which was exposed over two years ago. Here are the first details of the affair as reported by our correspondents Karmela Menashe and Ron Nesi'el. Reserves Colonel Shim'on Levinson, 60, born in Israel, was arrested approximately two years ago. Since then his trial has been conducted behind closed doors. He was convicted of spying for the Soviet Union for six years, between 1983 and 1989. The court ruled that he had held meetings with KGB agents in Moscow and Europe, and handed over classified and sensitive information.

Reserves Colonel Levinson served in the IDF and in the intelligence community for many years and held senior positions. Among other positions, he was the IDF's chief liaison officer to the United Nations, and the IDF's representative at the cease-fire committee with Jordan. Our correspondent reports that he was popular and well-liked by everybody, and had been considered a success in all his posts. His parents were among the founders of Petah Tiqva, and he was considered a member of the established elite. He was arrested in May 1991, and in June 1993, he was convicted of aggravated espionage. According to the verdict, Levinson offered his services to KGB agents when he was in Bangkok. After that he met KGB agents in Moscow and Europe for six years. The court ruled that the two-year period he has already spent behind bars would be deducted from his 12-year sentence. The sentence was also read out behind closed doors, and even his family was not permitted to be present. Attorney Amnon Zikhroni, Levinson's counsel, speaking after the court ruling, said that he was considering their future steps and had not yet decided whether to appeal the verdict.

Joint Agenda With Israel To Be Announced

JN0109200393 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Jordan is waiting for the Palestinians and Israelis to sign an agreement on the Gaza-Jericho First option before it declares the agenda of its bilateral negotiations with Israel. This is what has been said to our radio by a high-level Jordanian source. The source explained that the joint agenda does not need to be signed. Rather, it only needs to be declared. He said that the agenda is not at the level of a peace agreement between the two sides.

Jordan had reached an agenda with Israel, with only some outstanding linguistic problems. However, the agenda was held until some progress was achieved on the Palestinian track, which Jordan considers the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The source said that if the Palestinians sign their agreement with Israel, Jordan will proceed to declare its agenda, which will remain outstanding until the Palestinian-Israeli agreement is signed.

Imminent Signing of 'Principles' Denied

JN0109171693 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] Information Minister Dr. Ma'n Abu-Nuwar has denied a report transmitted by AP today and broadcast by the Israeli television to the effect that Jordan is about to sign a declaration of principles with Israel.

King: Jordan 'Not in Picture' on Gaza-Jericho

JN0109175493 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn said that we were not in the picture of the details of what has taken place between the Palestinians and the Israeli Government regarding the Gaza-Jericho plan. He said: We, in Jordan, have one decision and one stand. The Palestinians have the right to speak about their affairs, aspirations, and rights. We support independent Palestinian decisionmaking. We support it and back it. From the very beginning, we have called for giving the Palestinian people the chance to exercise their right to make their decision without trusteeship from anyone. Based on this, we responded to the Palestinian and Arab demand at the Rabat summit to make the PLO the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

His majesty said: We, in Jordan, do not accept any agreement, to which we are not a party, to be imposed on us. He said that the nation is passing through a serious stage and that Arab destiny is threatened. This, he said, necessitates an Arab meeting at which all sides should rise above their wounds and misunderstandings in the service of the Arab future and the coming generations.

He said: We stress our full readiness to respond to an Arab approach to hold an Arab summit. He noted that Arab coordination regarding the peace process was not as necessary.

His Majesty King Husayn's statements came in a televised interview conducted with his majesty by Arab journalist Ghassan Tuwayni. We will present a full recording of the interview at 2000 tomorrow, Thursday, on both channels of Jordan Television, the Jordanian Arab space channel, and all Amman radio frequencies.

Editorial Backs King's Call for Arab Summit

JN0209095093 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 2 Sep 93 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "King Husayn's Call and the Need To Hold an Arab Summit]

[Text] During its preparations and since the start of the peace process in Madrid, Jordan has been fully aware that the Arab side would enter negotiations with Israel amid an Arab situation torn by the repercussions of the Gulf crisis, with the international arena controlled by the United States and the United Nations after the collapse of the Soviet Union. In light of all this, the imbalance of power favored Israel. Therefore, because there were no strong negotiating cards to put on the table, Jordan's participation in the peace process was not based on its disregard for the realities of Arab and international politics. Jordan and the other Arab parties taking part in the negotiations based their involvement in the peace process on the need for serious and effective Arab coordination to face the military and political edge given to Israel by limitless U.S. support.

The regrettable thing is that this coordination has recently retreated. This opens the door wide to Israel's attempt, supported by the United States, to impose separate deals that, inevitably, will lead to unjustified Arab concessions. In a television interview with Arab journalist Ghassan Tuwayni yesterday, His Majesty King Husayn referred to this. He clearly said that Arab coordination within the peace process is not meeting the required standard. He said Jordan had not been brought into the picture on the details of the Gaza-Jericho First plan; it surprised Jordan, which learned about it through the media. Other Arab parties concerned about the peace process were surprised, too. Many Palestinian leaders were not acquainted with this agreement, which was the result of eight months of secret negotiations that ran parallel to the Washington negotiations. Since it provided the Palestinian side with the umbrella for the negotiations, Jordan should have been acquainted with this important development earlier.

Jordan does not seek to impose its tutelage on Palestinian decisionmaking. It is committed to the 1974 Rabat summit, to the decision to cut administrative and legal ties with the West Bank, and to the Palestinian people's right to independent decisionmaking under the leadership of the PLO, their sole and legitimate representative. His Majesty King Husayn reaffirmed this principled position yesterday by saying: "The Palestinians have the right to talk about their affairs, aspirations, and rights. We support independent Palestinian decisionmaking."

Since the start of the peace process, Jordan has been enthusiastic about providing all the support and aid it can to the Palestinian negotiating delegation. It has sought hard to reinforce the bilateral coordination that is dictated by the historic brotherly relations between the two fraternal peoples. But, Jordan does not accept that—as His Majesty King Husayn said—"any agreement to which it is not a party should be imposed on it."

Recent dramatic political developments have placed the Arab nation at a serious crossroads. As King Husayn said: "Arab destiny is threatened. This requires an Arab meeting at which all sides should rise above their wounds and misunderstandings. He said we, in Jordan, stress our full readiness to respond to an Arab approach to hold an Arab summit.

Editorial Urges Continued Support for Palestinians

JN0209110093 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 2 Sep 93 p 1

[Editorial: "Awaiting King Husayn's Interview"]

[Text] The headlines of His Majesty King Husayn's interview granted to Lebanese journalist Ghassan Tuwayni clearly show the Jordanian stand toward the important issues presented in the Palestinian and Arab arenas.

Since 1974, Jordan has recognized the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. It has been enthusiastic about dealing with the PLO on this basis. When Jordan found it necessary to reaffirm the identity of the Palestinian people in the face of Israeli occupation, it announced it was severing its administrative ties with the West Bank so the Palestinian people could continue their struggle against the occupation, entrenching their Palestinian identity on their national soil.

Jordan continued its political approach, dealing with the Palestinian cause as its own first cause. It is also the cause of Arabs everywhere. National and pan-Arab duty dictates that Jordan backs the struggle of these people, offering all support so they can continue their steadfastness until they can regain their legitimate national rights. King Husayn's emphasis on Jordan's respect for independent Palestinian decisionmaking is a practical implementation of this policy and approach.

Although the Gaza-Jericho First agreement between Israel and the Palestinians has created some clamor here and there—in addition to the imbalance and disharmony in the required Arab coordination that accompanied the agreement—Jordan will not stop at this issue due to its importance to the peace process. Indeed, Jordan will continue its support for the Palestinian people and will offer them all the backing needed to regain their rights and restore what was plundered from their homeland.

Jordan, which is concerned about its sovereignty and independence and is always aspiring to reinforce Arab solidarity and remove the disputes and differences in inter-Arab relations, is also concerned about being its own master. It will not allow any peddling or imposition of stands or agreements, from one party or another.

Therefore, King Husayn called for an urgent Arab meeting to converge efforts and remove differences among the states of our Arab nation so we can confront the events and developments that have happened and are happening in this world.

As we wait for King Husayn's statements this evening, we call for a thorough study of what is presented in the arena with high national spirit and enlightened realism, without any overreaction, extremism, weakness, or excessive moderation.

Political Groups React to Gaza-Jericho Plan

JN0109135793 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 1 Sep 93 p 15

[Text] Amman—The Israeli Government's decision to approve the Gaza-Jericho agreement has resulted in a broad range of reactions in the Jordanian arena. These reactions ranged from outright opposition to this option to surprise and bewilderment laced with concern over this Israeli trend and the fate of the peace negotiations. These reactions were also shrouded with the fear that Israeli intentions may be content with this agreement rather than a comprehensive and just solution to the Palestinian issue.

Dr. Ishaq al-Farhan, secretary general of the Islamic Action Front, said: We believe that this option is an abortion of the negotiations which will not achieve results that are satisfactory to the Arabs. He added that this option keeps the area under Israeli security and only gives the Palestinians internal security.

Dr. al-Farhan said that this option must be rejected because it does not include territorial jurisdiction or external security. It also postpones discussion of the issues of Jerusalem and settlement activity.

Muhammad Nazzal, representative of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, said that the Gaza-Jericho first option is a conspiracy against the Palestinian people and their sacred national cause. It is not the people's choice or that of their struggling forces. It is the choice of an isolated and tyrannical leadership that controls the Palestinian people's decisionmaking and subjects their rights and constants to serve their selfish interests. We and all the sincere ones inside the homeland and in the diaspora reject this conspiracy. We call on our struggling people to foil this plan, which is aimed against their existence and fate.

Shaykh 'As'ad Bayyud al-Tamimi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad-Bayt al-Maqdis, described the Gaza-Jericho First option as a farce. He said it is a farce that is rejected by Islam and the Koran.

Al-Tamimi added that the serious stage facing the Palestinian cause these days, the unbelievable concessions the Palestinian leadership and the negotiating delegation are making, as well as the secret and public contacts, will all lead to losing Palestine—all of Palestine. We warn the PLO and the negotiating delegation against falling into the trap of the grand crusader-Zionist conspiracy, the most important features of which is to have us relinquish Jerusalem—all of Jerusalem. Based on this, we reject the agreement.

An official spokesman for the Political Bureau of the Jordanian Democratic People's Party, Hashd, said that the Palestinian negotiating party's acceptance of the Gaza-Jericho First plan is the tragic result of a series of serious concessions that began with the Madrid conference and were crowned by presenting the Palestinian paper that responded to the U.S.-Israeli paper on a declaration of principles. Recent developments have shown the excessive pursuit of a single-handed approach as well as a disregard for the decisions of the PLO's legitimate institutions. These developments also ignore the voice of the Palestinian people, the national institutions, the factions, and the figures the great majority of whom reject the self-government conspiracy.

Talal al-Ramahi, secretary general of the Popular Unity Party, the Unionists, said that the party still has not examined the official text of the agreement in order to present his final stand on this agreement. However, he added, initially, we do not want to cast doubt on the nationalism of the Palestinian leadership. We also do not want to be more Palestinian than the Palestinians themselves. We consider what has happened, if it has happened, to be an inevitable result of Arab fragmentation. It is also a result of the division and estrangement that the Arab nation has suffered as a result of the policies of the Arab regimes, which does not surprise anyone who was following the series of Arab concessions.

Lawyer 'Abd-al-Nasir Sabri Nassar, member of the committee in charge of defending detainees and prisoners, said: We will remain committed to all the constants approved by our Arab nation in order to liberate the land, especially those constants that restore to the Palestinians their full right on their national soil and returns the holy places, the foremost of which is holy Jerusalem. We will do so through coordination with all the Arab parties. The developments in the arena—in terms of the Gaza-Jericho First plan and after reviewing this issue—we leave it up to the Palestinian decisionmakers who are committed to the framework of legitimacy and regaining Palestinian rights. We accept what the Palestinians accept in a positive manner and with good will. We will continue to support the decision of the Palestinian people and their leadership.

'Ali 'Amir, secretary general of the Jordanian Democratic Progressive Party, said that so far there has not been a full and final agreement. There is only an agreement on initial principles. This option can be a form of tangible progress that opens the doors to developments in the negotiations, implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy, and laying the foundation for a just and lasting peace. 'Amir reaffirmed his support for entrenching Palestinian national authority on any inch of land from which the occupation withdraws. This is a national and pan-Arab demand that deserves full support.

A statement issued by the Democratic Nationalist Arab Grouping, Irbid, said that the so-called Gaza-Jericho option is far from the bases of international and Palestinian legitimacy. It represents a Zionist trap designed to ignite inter-Palestinian civil strife in order to deal a blow to the brave intifadah through the Palestinians themselves. This is in addition to dropping the Palestinian people's legitimate rights to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state, with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

The statement emphasized: We are not against the withdrawal of the Israeli forces. However, we want this to be part of a continuous withdrawal from all the occupied Palestinian territories. The statement called for the suspension of the negotiations and urged the Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories to seek a comprehensive national dialogue to formulate a working plan aimed at correcting the course of the negotiations.

News Analysis Views 'Arafat's 'Risky Gamble'

JN0209103593 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 2 Sep 93 p 1

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Lamis K. Andoni—"News Analysis"]

[Text] Reaching a separate accord on Palestinian self-rule with the Israelis, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leaders Yasir 'Arafat is venturing into a risky gamble that could result in either the loss of his organisation's legitimacy or success in achieving Palestinian sovereignty.

At stake is not only Palestinian national unity, but also Arab solidarity behind the Palestinian cause and most certainly the promise of statehood.

Mr. 'Arafat, and the small group of confidants who have participated in or known about the secret negotiations with Israel, are optimistic that by finally getting the Israelis to talk directly to them, the PLO has succeeded in greatly advancing the Palestinian cause.

The thinking inside these circles, according to well-informed sources, is that regardless of the shortcomings of the accord, once the PLO is part of the peace process the U.S. and Israel would have to accept Palestinian national rights.

The hoped-for scenario, according to official statements and interviews, goes like this: Once the PLO establishes itself on the ground in the form of a provisional government or a political party, it will be able to start building the infranstructure of a future Palestinian state, particularly when economic aid starts flowing in.

A combination of improving the socio-economic conditions in the desperately poor and crowded Gaza Strip and in Jericho and some form of Palestinian authority will make it possible for Palestinians to start the negotiations with Israel as a government on equal footing, making statehood an option that the Israelis cannot ignore.

But this scenario will be complicated by many serious obstacles. These include the provisions of the accord itself, the lack of consensus among the Palestinians and the inevitable dependence on financial aid from the Arabs themselves and foreign donors who might not want to see or support an independent Palestinian state. The Israeli-Palestinian accord refers to a "Marshall plan" that most Palestinian officials suspect aims at improving conditions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip but not at paying the way for eventual sovereignty.

Furthermore, Israel, which will remain in charge of external security and border crossing points, thus controlling any Palestinian authority's access to the outsie world, will still have the ability and the power to put pressure on or even strangle any attempt to establish a state.

It is doubtless, according to information available about previous PLO-Israeli secret contacts, that Mr. 'Arafat is also partly betting on a positive response by the Israeli public opinion to calls for coexistence after a Palestinian authority, regardless how limited, is established.

Mr. 'Arafat seems to be confident that he will eventually gain the support of the Palestinians and assert his authority through dominating the elected administrative council and the Palestinian police force.

Palestinian officials say that Mr. 'Arafat expects his Fatah group, which will be transformed from a liberation movement into a political party, to get the biggest share in the elections.

The officials anticipate the formation of a sizeable Palestinian police force, including units from the Palestine Liberation Army stationed in Jordan and Egypt. "The Israelis will allow Palestinians who carry Jordanian passports or Egyptian documents to be part of the police force," said one PLO official.

Critics of Mr. 'Arafat warn that such a scenario is unrealistic, and they charge that the Palestinian authority will end up doing the dirty work for the Israelis by quelling the opposition and ensuring that Israeli targets are not attacked.

In statements he gave in Cairo this past week, Mr. 'Arafat dismissed warnings against a possible civil war by saying: "This will not happen. The Palestinian police will take care of Palestinian security."

If anything, such statements have reinforced the arguments of the opponents of the Jericho-Gaza First accord that in the absence of Palestinian consensus the only way of maintaining stability will involve violent suppression of any dissent—a factor that will undermine stability and provide the Israelis with a pretext to block Palestinian sovereignty.

So far, Mr. 'Arafat has not even tried to attain minimum consensus apparently for fear that a national dialogue would restrict his margin of manoeuvrability.

Although the PLO leader has always been known for his single- handed style in running his organisation he has never ignored the Palestinian groups and institutions to the extent of not even consulting with Executive Committee about the accord, even after it was signed.

He has obviously decided to take things into his own hands and not to allow anybody to stand in his way as he believes that an Israeli recongition of the PLO could pave the way for real opportunities and breakthroughs, some Palestinian sources say.

Mr. 'Arafat's adviser Bassam Abu Sharif's statement Tuesday that the PLO will dissolve itself to form a provisional government, which seems to be true, might explain Mr. 'Arafat's disregard of PLO institutions, although Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, another confidant of the PLO chairman, denied the statement yesterday.

In fact several PLO Executive Committee members and other senior officials have been complaining over the last few months that Mr. 'Arafat has started a de facto dismantling of PLO institutions by ignoring their role and the way he has been allegedly selective in suspending funds for certain departments.

Many claim that the Fatah movement, or at least those who support Mr. 'Arafat's negotiating tactics, have not been affected by the cuts.

Mr. 'Arafat's tactics appear to have succeeded in perplexing the opposition, whose leaders are worried about further contributing to destruction of the PLO if they call for his resignation or move to form an alternative organisation.

Leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) George Habash has already charged that Mr. 'Arafat "no longer represents the Palestinian people."

But even though opposition is rapidly building up, its manifestations so far have been confined to statements, signed by many members of the Palestine National Council (PNC) merely urging Mr. 'Arafat to suspend peace talks with Israel.

The magnitude of the opposition has not deterred the PLO leader, who is determined, it seems, to go all the way in the hope of achieving something for the Palestinians as soon as he can.

What alarms his critics and even supporters though is that he seems to be putting all of his eggs in one basket and is not leaving himself enough room to withdraw if his strategy does not work.

Charges Filed in Assassination Plot Case

JN3008111393 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 30 Aug 93 p 2

[Text] Major General Muhannad Hijazi, public prosecutor at the State Security Court, has finished drafting a bill of indictment for 10 defendants charged with planning an attempt on the king's life, working to change the Constitution by illegal means, and belonging to an outlawed association, the Islamic Liberation Party. Two of the 10 defendants are still at large.

The defendants are:

1. Isma'il 'Amir, 36, a resident of Amman, al-Juwaydah, detained on 26 May 1993;

2. Hilal Fulayhan, preacher at 'Amrah Mosque, 31, a resident of al-Hamam town, al-Jizah district, detained on 4 June 1993;

3. Muhammad 'Awdah, 23, from al-Faysaliyah, detained on 15 May 1993;

4. Husayn 'Ali, 20, from Sama town in Irbid, detained on 28 April 1993;

5. Basil Muhammad from 'Anjarah town, 20, detained on 29 April 1993;

6. Ziyad Sayil, 20, a resident of Marka, detained on 8 May 1993;

7. Sulayman Salim, 20, from al-Zarqa', detained on 28 April 1993;

8. Fu'ad 'Abd-al-Karim, 20, a resident of al-Hashimiyah, detained on 8 May 1993;

9. Walid Hamadah, a resident of Amman, still at large;

10. Yusuf Ahmad, a resident of Amman, still at large.

Charges: [subtitle]

1. Taking part in a plot to assassinate his majesty the king in violation of Articles 107, 108, 135, and 76 of the Penal Code No. 16 of 1960. This charge is pressed against all the defendants.

2. Working to change the Constitution by illegal means in violation of Articles 136 and 76 of the same code. This charge is pressed against all the defendants.

3. Belonging to an outlawed association, the Islamic Liberation Party, with the aim of overthrowing the Constitution by revolution and violence in violation of Articles 159 and 160 of the same code. This charge is also pressed against all the defendants.

Details:

The first defendant, Isma'il, and the second defendant, Hilal, belong to the Islamic Liberation Party, an illegal party that aims at overthrowing the regime in Jordan by revolution and sabotage, to assume power and establish an Islamic caliphate-style system. This was to be done by a specialized organ of the party called the Support-Seeking Organ. The function of this organ is to contact the so-called "people of influence," referring to political forces in the state establishment and officers and personnel of the Armed Forces, to recruit them into the party after convincing them of its ideology. Those people would then control sensitive positions once the process of change begins. The concept of change, as envisaged by the Islamic Liberation Party, should begin with the head of the regime, after convincing the nation that it is an infidel regime because it does not rule according to God's revelations, and that the punishment of the infidel is death.

In line with this way of thinking, the two defendants began their contacts in 1992, when the second defendant, Hilal, approached a student at the military wing of Mu'tah University, who is the third defendant, Muhammad, taking advantage of the fact that they are relatives. As a result of intensive contacts with Muhammad, Hilal managed to convince him of the ideas and objectives of the Islamic Liberation Party. He then introduced him to the first defendant, Isma'il. The three of them met at Isma'il's house. The purpose of the meeting was to allow Muhammad to get to know the first defendant, Isma'il, in view of his leading position within the party. Isma'il made a comprehensive review of the party's founders, activities, and objectives. It was then agreed to organize a private seminar for the third defendant, Muhammad, since he is a member of the Armed Forces. As a result, they managed to recruit him. The second defendant, Hilal, working on the directives of the first defendant, Isma'il, managed to mobilize Muhammad and provide him with books and leaflets issued by the party, until they were certain he was totally convinced of the party's principles and aims. In line with the party's principle that an infidel ruler must be killed, of which Muhammad had become totally convinced, the second defendant proposed to him the idea of assassinating his majesty the king, since, as they preach, he is an infidel because he does not rule according to God's revelations.

After some time of contemplation, the third defendant, Muhammad, agreed. He told them that this operation could be carried out during the graduation ceremony at the university, in which he would participate in June 1992. He expressed readiness to implement the operation by himself. The second defendant told him that he would convey his consent to the first defendant.

Following a period of consultation, contemplation, and exchange of ideas between the three defendants, they agreed on an irreversible decision to assassinate his majesty the king and topple the regime in order to seize power and set up an Islamic caliphate. They fixed a date for implementing their agreement in June 1992 during the graduation ceremony in Mu'tah University that his majesty patronizes. It was also agreed to assign the third defendant, Muhammad, with working out a specific plan for the means and instruments to carry out the assassination, and to present this plan to them in order to refer it to the party's leadership.

The third defendant worked out the plan according to which he would open fire on his majesty with a gun hidden in his clothes. When his majesty reviewed the column, he planned to open fire on the head of his majesty since he would be just a few meters away from him, and all that he needed was a gun.

The defendants presented this plan to the party which blessed it and promised to provide the gun as the date of the operation approached. However, before the date of carrying out the operation, and due to a factor beyond the defendants' will, which is the failure of third defendant, Muhammad, in two subjects in Arabic language that prevented his graduation and his participation in the graduation ceremony with other students, he was unable to carry out the assassination.

Yet, the defendants' determination to implement their decision urged them to make a new attempt to implement the operation by recruiting other elements from the university's military students in order to assassinate his majesty the king during the graduation ceremony the next year, 1993, since the third defendant, Muhammad, would be completing his courses by the end of the summer term in 1992.

The third defendant, Muhammad, was asked to devote the time left for him at the university to recruiting several religiously inclined students within the ranks of the party. Indeed, he approached the fourth defendant, Husayn, a freshman at the military wing, and managed, through intensive meetings, to recruit him and convince him of the party's ideology and view that the ruling regime in Jordan is infidel and must be removed. He told him that he had planned to assassinate his majesty the king at a graduation ceremony in 1992 and that his flunking two courses prevented him from doing this. He told him, however, that the opportunity was still there, asking him whether he would like to do it himself during the ceremony in 1993. The fourth defendant, Husayn, was first hesitant, so the third defendant, Muhammad, started telling him about the reward of martyrdom by God and that it was the easiest way to go to paradise. He told him that after assassinating the king, all sensitive positions in the state establishment would be taken over through the Support-Seeking Organ, and that the party would assume power and set up an Islamic state. The fourth defendant, Husayn, showed enthusiasm for the idea and agreed to carry out the mission. He also expressed his desire to recruit other religiously inclined students to help him carry out the mission.

In September 1992, the third defendant, Muhammad, finished the required courses and graduated with the rank of a lieutenant. He then managed to join the Special Royal Guard through using his own connections, to pursue his party activity and carry out the mission if the fourth defendant, Husayn, failed to carry it out.

In late December 1992, the first defendant, Isma'il, left Jordan for Yemen. The ninth defendant, Walid, and the 10th defendant, Yusuf, assumed his party position. They contacted the second defendant, Hilal, and told him that his contact with the party would be through them during the absence of Isma'il. They asked him to keep in touch with the third defendant, Muhammad, to prepare for the assassination attempt in June 1993. They also asked him to give them the details of the attempt some time before the date of execution.

During this period, the fourth defendant, Husayn, began his organizational activity by contacting some cadets at the university, pursuant to his agreement with the third defendant, Muhammad. He was able to recruit the fifth defendant, Basil; the sixth defendant, Ziyad; the seventh defendant, Sulayman; and the eighth defendant, Fu'ad. He explained the ideology of the party and its course for changing the ruling system. He led them to the conviction that the existing ruling system in Jordan is heretical and that it must be removed by killing the head of the regime and establishing Islamic rule. He also told them that the assassination attempt would be accompanied by attempts to gain control of all the sensitive positions in the government, such as the radio, the television, and the royal palaces. After meetings and discussions, the fifth, the sixth, the seventh, and the eighth defendants agreed to participate in the assassination attempt against his majesty the king's life.

The third defendant, Muhammad, and the fourth defendant, Husayn, were in continuous contact to discuss matters related to the implementation of the operation, to the latest preparations of the fourth defendant, Husayn, and the rest of the defendants, and to the roles of the defendants. The role of the fourth defendant, Husayn, and the seventh defendant, Sulayman, was to shoot at his majesty the king while he was reviewing the column of cadets participating in the graduation. Meanwhile, the fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth defendants would give the fourth and seventh defendants room to shoot at his majesty the king and would intervene when necessary to obstruct any attempt to prevent them from carrying out the operation.

During a meeting among the ninth defendant, Walid, the 10th defendant, Yusuf, and the second defendant, Hilal, they expressed the party's support for this operation and promised to supply the necessary weapons to carry out the operation before the operation takes place.

However, at the end of April in 1993, the defendants were discovered, arrested, and questioned. Meanwhile, the ninth defendant, Walid, and the 10th defendant, Yusuf, were able to escape.

The Proof:

The witnesses: Samir Sulayman, Samir Ibrahim, Iyad Jamil, Tariq Muhammad, Hasan Muhammad, Mas'ud Sulayman, Mazin 'Awdah, Miflih Sulayman, and Hasan Mudahhi; publications and books issued by the Islamic Liberation Party; the defendants' statements during the investigations; and legal evidence.

The Request:

Convicting all defendants of the charges filed against them and sentencing them in accordance with the law.

Al-Majali Addresses Euro-Arab Dialogue Seminar

JN0109152593 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Standing in for His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali inaugurated a seminar on the fifth European-Arab dialogue organized by the Arab Thought Forum in cooperation with the UNESCO. Details on the seminar's opening session follow in our correspondent's report:

Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali delivered a speech at the opening session of the dialogue in which he said: Our region is currently passing through extremely delicate and serious circumstances because of the changes that will occur in the near future. The prime minister added: It has become certain that the Arab region, with all the developments and events taking place in it, is at a crossroads that will either pave the way for a genuine, deep-rooted, just, and comprehensive peace to which peoples will adhere in order to safeguard their lives and security, or prove to be merely superficial political maneuvers that will be driven away by the course of events.

Dr. al-Majali added: "We, in Jordan, aspire to a genuine peace that will give this region, which is rife with conflicts, a true opportunity for development and reconstruction. We, in Jordan, have developed for ourselves a future concept based on three principles; first, the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace that spares resources and capabilities, and can replace destructive weapons with plows, machines, and work and investment opportunities. Second, we believe in cooperation based on equal bases without discrimination or attempts to impose hegemony or to interfere in other people's affairs. Last, the future lies in construction, development, and confronting demographic challenges, in building democracy and political systems that achieve comprehensive security for the human being. Therefore, our future concept is based on a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace, on mutual and balanced cooperation; and on development that achieves security."

Dr. al-Majali also reviewed the previous European-Arab dialogues and the extremely important issues they tackled. He stressed the importance of the continuation of the European-Arab dialogue. He said that Europe's stability is linked to the stability and development of the countries south of it; namely, the Arab countries. He added that cooperation, the exchange of expertise and know-how, and efforts for mutual development are imperative for the stability of the Arab and European regions.

Concluding his speech, he conveyed the greetings of His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, president of the board of trustees of the Arab Thought Forum, and his wishes for the success of the participants.

During their two-day seminar, the participants will discuss a number of issues related to Arab immigration from Arab Maghreb states to Europe and Muslim issues in Europe. This dialogue will also discuss the issue of human rights in Arab and European states.

Report on Secret Talks With Israel Denied

NC0209112793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Statement issued by the Cabinet General Secretariat on 2 September—read by announcer]

[Text] Citing REUTERS, the newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT published a report attributed to a PLO official that secret talks are being conducted between Lebanese and Israeli officials in Spain on Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon. The Lebanese Government categorically denies the paper's report and states that it is groundless and fabricated and aimed at harming the Lebanese position, which has been participation in the Arab-Israeli talks in Washington based on a comprehensive and integrated solution.

Dallul on 'Danger' of Separate Accords

NC0209113793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has said the danger of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement lies in it possibly leading to separate solutions. He said the agreement should come within a framework of coordination and form part of an Arab study and understanding, not represent a separate deal. In a radio interview today, he ruled out the agreement's harming Lebanon as long as solidarity and understanding exist. He noted that the only problem is the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425 and a comprehensive Arab solution.

Dallul said Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri's tour of Arab countries has been positive, noting that every country expressed readiness to contribute to rebuilding what the Israeli aggression destroyed.

Calls Agreement 'Setback'

NC0109175493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] The Palestinian-Israeli agreement has drawn various reactions in Beirut. Most prominent of these was a statement by Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul who said the agreement is a new setback to the Arab negotiators. He added Israel has made a new infiltration into the Arab situation and the danger is no less than that of military infiltrations.

He noted that Israel is diverting the negotiations from the course agreed upon by the Arab cordon states by excluding the PLO from the process of a comprehensive solution. He said that this new trend to divide the solution weakens the Arab negotiator and harms the Palestinian negotiator himself.

Al-Hirawi Deplores Palestinian 'Separate Deal'

NC0109174593 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1607 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Speech by President Ilyas al-Hirawi at the opening of the Arab Music Festival at the Holy Spirit University in al-Kaslik—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Lebanon is the homeland of human togetherness on foundations of amity, tolerance, and concord. Indeed, coexistence among the Lebanese peoples is the greatest civilized feat on this planet. We submit it as a model of amity and peace. [applause]

Here lies Lebanon's greatness. Here lies the greatness of Lebanese peace: pure loyalty at home and a sincere commitment to the brothers. Both in times of ordeal and times of peace, we are the most loyal to legitimate Arab rights. We back every brother who succeeds in regaining even one inch of his land. However, what kind of right is this that might be had at the expense of the brothers' rights? [applause]

We embarked on the stage of negotiations through cooperation and solidarity with the brothers. We all committed ourselves to a united, comprehensive Arab stance. O regret, the baby's mother [reference to the Palestinians], the owner of the cause, because of whom and for whose sake we here in Lebanon have offered the greatest sacrifices, has withheld from us even news of what she was doing. She circumvented us all without cause. [applause]

The memory is painful but the truth must be told. Does the road to Jerusalem pass around me only on the day of bloodletting but not pass through Lebanon in cooperation and peace? [applause]

They have climbed to a separate solution on the debris of Beirut and other Lebanese areas. Woe unto them. Arab dignity requires us to stick together in good as in bad times and to remain united whether we are approaching or signing a solution.

At any rate, if they imagine that this separate deal will drive us into a corner, they are wrong. Lebanon has been a battlefield for others, but it survived and will continue to do so, for it has a right and it will defend it. [applause] [passage omitted]

Minister Rejects Palestinian Settlement in Lebanon

NC0209150093 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 2 Sep 93

[News conference by Information Minister Michel Samahah with unidentified correspondents after Samahah's meeting with Maronite Patriarch Sfayr in Bkirki on 2 September]

[Excerpts] [Samahah, in progress]...after the return of his beatitude from al-Diman to Bkirki, especially after his beatitude chaired the meetings of the Patriarch Council yesterday, which issued a statement in conclusion. I am visiting the patriarch out of a sense of duty to congratulate him on his return to Bkirki and to deliberate with him over the contents—expectations, stands, and meanings—of yesterday's statement.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, your visit comes 24 hours after the Patriarch Council's statement was issued. This statement contained many stances. One of the most important stance was that the peace coming to the region, according to the statement, will bring about many changes that we hope will lead to the restoration of free, national Lebanese decisionmaking. The statement hoped this coming peace will benefit those who are ready for it. In other words, it hoped this peace will be beneficial for whoever is ready for it. This is something that contradicts the speech President al- Hirawi made yesterday in al-Kaslik in which he waged a violent campaign against the Palestinian team. The president was not optimistic. Do you believe that there is a contradiction between President al-Hirawi's speech and....

[Samahah, interrupting] Your question is loaded. There are many questions here. First, to comment on what has happened with the Palestinians I must say, using very simple expressions, that we have not yet forgotten Camp David and the results. Every circle that has diverted unilaterally from the Arab chain has always reflected on the whole chain in the form of woes. Lebanon paid huge prices at the end of the seventies and during the eighties for Arab unilateral peace agreements.

The only acceptable framework for us, without going into details, is the framework the Arabs followed while agreeing and coordinating with each other through the Madrid peace conference and the resulting negotiating tracks in Washington. Lebanon has paid a high price, as the president said yesterday, for the Palestinian wars and restoration of rights. Syria and Jordan have also paid. The whole Arab world has paid. Division harms everyone's stands and causes us to hear statements, such as those made by Rabin and Peres recently, that the Palestinian unilateral stance has improved Israel's negotiating stance. When Israel's negotiating stance improves in such an atmosphere, it does so at the expense of the Arab negotiating stance, especially at the expense of our Lebanese, Syrian, and Jordanian stances regarding the contents and the results of peace. We should fortify ourselves against this. This is an answer to one point. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, one last question. The statement made by the president yesterday in al-Kaslik is considered to be a violent campaign against the Palestinian side. Lebanon is the only country that has rejected the Palestinian-Israeli settlement. If we look at the other Arab countries that are participating in the peace negotiations with Israel, they did not have a rejectionist stand, although Jordan and Syria did express surprise over the settlement after their meetings. However, they did not express any official stand. Does the president's speech conceal fears that the coming solution will be at the expense of Lebanon, specifically the settlement of Palestinians?

[Samahah] The position expressed by the president yesterday is a Lebanese stance on this issue. It could also be the stance of some Arabs, even if they have not stated it. [passage omitted]

Regarding the issue of settlement, there are three types of people who want settlement. Israel wants settlement in order to end its problem regarding the Palestinian identity living outside the occupied territories now. Some of those who advocate any old solution want to get rid of the excess number of Palestinians, which cannot be absorbed by the coming state. They advocate giving the Palestinians a new identity, thus settling them. Some Lebanese who have grand ideas and whims of another kind, and who believe that the settlement of some Palestinians could be a new internal factor in future formulas, could also applaud such a project. However, I wish to remind all of them that the al-Ta'if reconciliation document is clear, as are the deliberations among the Lebanese to amend the Constitution: There can be no settlement. This is something we adhere to from a national position, from my position as an official of the government and my seat in the Chamber of Deputies. Irrespective of the formula the Palestinians will apply in their country, whoever is Palestinian will continue to carry the Palestinian identity and whoever is Lebanese will carry the Lebanese identity. The Palestinian citizen in Lebanon will continue to have the same status as all other Arab citizens who carry Arab identities living in Lebanon regarding their rights and duties in Lebanon. We do not accept settlement. [passage omitted]

Buwayz Returns After Meeting al-Asad in Damascus

NC0209055093 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz returned to Beirut from Damascus last night after a five-hour meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' also attended the talks.

Hizballah Condemns 'Conspiratorial' Gaza-Jericho Plan

NC0209080593 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] Hizballah has issued a statement on the Gaza-Jericho agreement between the PLO and the Israeli entity. It says: The entire nation is at a dangerous turning point concerning the greatest and most important of its causes and the dearest and most sacred of its sanctities. The development is placing the region before a horrifying future swallowing up the nation's long militant past with all its bitterness, pain, heroism, and glory. It is burning the nation's hopes and dreams with the bodies of its immortal martyrs, the blood of its virtuous wounded, the estrangement of its detainees and prisoners, and the madness of its orphans and bereaved families. The development is killing every ounce of resolve and free will in our brave people, who are vigorously looking forward to restoring their absolute right to beloved Palestine and its liberation from the filthy usurping and occupying Zionist.

The statement adds: The people set out toward the liberation, which came within sight, thanks to the jihad of the heroes of the intifadah in the occupied territories. The children's stones turned Gaza into a graveyard for the criminal invader, removed any possibility of their staying in the strip, and forced them to think of ways to withdraw from it after they suffered major losses. Many voices were raised asking the enemy government to get out of the crisis, so big a crisis that Rabin said: I wish I could wake up some day to find Gaza had sunk into the sea.

The Hizballah statement adds: There was also the jihad of the Islamic and national resistance in Lebanon, which turned the occupied strip into a slaughterhouse for the enemy soldiers and agents and forced them to retreat and admit defeat. And there was a mammoth popular movement in the Islamic and Arab world calling in the name of Palestine and Jerusalem to remove Israel from existence.

The statement goes on: Yasir 'Arafat came out of the tunnels of the traitor Egyptian regime and the cellars of Norway and the conspiring Western capitals, where he held secret meetings with enemy officials and figures, to shock the nation with his conspiratorial, liquidation plan known as the Gaza-Jericho plan, which entails major perils for our peoples and their cause, future, and fate. The plan is aimed at eliminating the intifadah through 'Arafat's response to Israel's conditions of preventing all forms of confrontation with the enemy and giving up the armed struggle option.

The statement says that acceptance of the Gaza-Jericho plan means abandoning over 2 million diaspora Palestinians, leaving them to the humiliation of poverty and isolation. It stresses that the plan for the deformed ministate that 'Arafat delivered from the womb of the whore of the new world order will mark the real beginning to the liquidation of the Palestine issue. It says 'Arafat has been turned into an effective tool in realizing the Zionist project, a dream that has long been dashed by the rifles of resistance men, the knives of the uprising, and the stones of children. Thus, he has given up his Palestinian identity and Arab affiliation and cut off all his ties with the Palestinian people. He is satisfied with a small spot of land, abolishing the nation's right to Jerusalem, Haifa, Yafo, the Carmel plains, and the Galilee mountains in return for the illusion of establishing a ministate at any price—no matter how cheap—as little as that it cost to have Iscariot sell Christ.

The statement emphasizes that under the shadow of this serious collapse, there is no option but resistance and jihad, trusting our people, who remained above the blows, standing fast against strife, and raising all hopes of victory.

Further Shelling, Raids Reported in South 1 Sep

Israelis Shell Iqlim al-Tuffah

NC0109114393 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] Israeli forces shelled Iqlim al-Tuffah from their positions in al-Zaffatah at 1200 today. The shelling covered Jabal al-Rayhan and the al-Luwayzah hills. After 30 minutes, the shelling intensified to cover Mlita hills, Jabal Safi, and the al-Zahrani river course. Israeli helicopters flew over the region, releasing scores of thermal balloons. The Islamic Resistance opened fire on the helicopters.

The shelling, which continued intermittently until 1330, caused no loss of life or property.

[In a related report, Paris AFP in English at 1108 GMT on 1 September adds the following: "An Israeli helicopter raided a pro-Iranian guerrilla stronghold in south Lebanon on Wednesday [1 September], shortly after an attack on Israel's proxy militia, police said.

["The helicopter fired two rockets at a target in the Jabal Safi area, a stronghold of the Shiite Muslim fundamentalist Hizballah guerrillas east of the port city of Sidon, but there were no casualties, the police said.

["Guerrillas earlier fired anti-tank rockets and automatic weapons at a position in Sujud held by the South Lebanon Army [SLA] militia inside Israel's self-declared 'security zone' in south Lebanon. There were no casualties."]

IDF, SLA Exchange Fire With 'Terrorists'

TA0109133393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] At noon today, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Army] exchanged fire with terrorists in the eastern sector in south Lebanon. Our correspondent in the north Yo'av Aviv has learned from sources in Lebanon that at around 1200 the terrorists opened up with mortar fire at positions in the Sujud area. IDF and SLA artillery fired in response. Shortly afterward the terrorists once again opened fire with mortars, and the IDF and SLA responded with artillery fire.

UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] spokesman Timor Goksel said the area is now quiet. A source north of the security zone claimed that three Israeli Air Force helicopter gunships raided terrorist targets in the Jabal Safi area. No casualties were reported.

Katyushas Fired at Security Zone

TA0109192093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] Sources in Lebanon report that the terrorists fired Katyusha rockets at the security zone in south Lebanon this afternoon, after Israeli Air Force helicopter gunships raided terrorist targets in the eastern sector.

Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] responded with artillery fire.

Al-Asad, al-Shar' Meet With Lebanon's Buwayz

JN0109162793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz at 1345 today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' attended the meeting.

Al-Shar' earlier received the Lebanese foreign minister in the presence of Yusuf Shakkur, the foreign minister's assistant, and Albert 'Asi, director of the Lebanon Office in Damascus. They exchanged views on the Israeli-Palestinian agreement and its possible repercussions in the Palestinian arena and on the Arab parties participating in the peace process.

Views were in agreement on the importance of continuing, consolidating, and promoting coordination in order to prevent any surprise or loophole that may harm the interests of the concerned parties in achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Israeli Minister's Statement on Withdrawal Noted

JN0109133493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] Occupied Palestine—Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin today said that Israel will make a withdrawal on the Golan. In statements published by the Israeli newspaper HA'ARETZ and carried by the Israeli radio today, Beilin added that Israel will also withdraw from southern Lebanon and from areas in the occupied West Bank.

These statements by Beilin reaffirm the continued Israeli prevarications designed to avoid the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy. These resolutions provide for full Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, including the Golan, and for the Palestinians' right to self-determination, repatriation, and establishment of an independent homeland.

For his part, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin asserted that occupied Jerusalem will remain under Israeli occupation. The Israeli radio said Rabin made this statement during his tour of Jewish schools in occupied Jerusalem today on the beginning of the new scholastic year.

'Seriousness' Characterizes Peace Talks

JN0109161193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1143 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The first day of talks of the 11th round of the ongoing peace negotiations in Washington was characterized by seriousness, although some more sensitive matters were not raised. The possibility of making an actual breakthrough on the path of achieving a comprehensive and just peace depends on these matters. It is difficult now to prejudge these matters and speculate on the possible results of this round. However, it can be said that this round of negotiations may differ from the previous rounds if this seriousness continues and if substantive issues are discussed. These issues are regarded as the basis of negotiations. It is not sufficient to discuss matters seriously without discussing the real substance of the topics that are raised. Here, we are referring in particular to the issue of Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and returning the rights to their owners.

The peace process was originally established on the basis of Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, which all provide for the Israeli forces' withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied by aggression. Moreover, the invitation to the Madrid conference was based on these resolutions as well as the land-for-peace principle.

The one thing that has been established thus far is the fact that Israel has attempted, through procrastination and maneuvering, to perpetuate its occupation of these territories. At best, when Israel talks about peace and discusses withdrawal—which should be an inevitable premise of this peace—it unequivocally says that it will not withdraw from all the territories occupied by force, that it will only withdraw from some, and not all, Arab territories, contrary to the relevant international resolutions.

Since the Madrid conference, Israel has endeavored to foil the negotiations by raising the slogan of peace for peace, as was the case during the Likud government's term, or by raising ambiguous formulas on withdrawals from Arab territories, or by returning to discussions about the principle of Israeli security before talking about the principle of withdrawal, or by fabricating crises and placing serious obstacles on the path of talks, as happened, for example, in the deportee issue and the recent aggression in Lebanon.

All this has thus far prevented the achievement of the desired breakthrough in negotiations. But, after these maneuvers failed to impede the peace process, after intensive U.S. efforts, and after the announcement by President Clinton's administration that it is determined to play a full and honest partner role in the negotiations, Israel and its leaders no longer have room to maneuver. Israel should now engage in the Washington negotiations in a new and serious way. This does not necessarily mean that the Israeli side is now actually convinced of the need to abide by the international resolutions. The Tel Aviv leaders continue to reaffirm that they adhere to the occupied territories, and that if they ever agree on any withdrawal, such a withdrawal would be partial.

Today, Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin confirmed this position by saying that Israel will make a withdrawal in the Golan, and not from the Golan. Thus, the seriousness shown in the first day of the 11th round may not be expressive of the truth of the new Israeli position. This, in turn, makes us believe that the Israeli side will resort to placing mines and traps on the path of negotiations, proposing new formulas that do not conform with the terms of reference of the Madrid conference and the bases of the peace process.

While waiting for the new Israeli position to become clearer in the next few days, the fact that everyone should be aware of is that the Arabs, who are working for a just and comprehensive peace, will not accept any Israeli proposal outside the framework of the terms of reference, and they will not abandon an inch of their usurped territories and rights, regardless of circumstances. The Arabs will insist on a comprehensive peace in accordance with what was approved by the international community and the Security Council resolutions.

The only breakthrough that can be made on the path of peace is when Israel announces its commitment to these international resolutions and accepts withdrawal from all occupied territories. Only then can there be talk about achieving an important step toward the desired peace.

Further Press Comment

JN0209113893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 2 Sep 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Commitment to Coordination Crucial Need," AL-BA'TH asserts that in the past 10 rounds of peace talks, the Arab side has made certain important points in terms of encircling the Israeli position and exposing Israel before the world as the party that rejects the peace process, shows intransigence in accepting the principles on which it was based, obstructs the rounds of talks, and defies the resolutions of international legitimacy. This achievement was unquestionably due to coordination among the Arab parties in the peace process.

AL-BA'TH says this great act of Arab solidarity, that began with the launching of the peace process at the initiative of the Arab parties—especially Syria—cannot be denied the role it played to achieve cohesion and balance in the Arab position during the peace talks. Nor can one deny the role it played to present a positive and rational image of the Arab position to the world. It showed that Arabs are advocates of peace and genuine supporters of peace. It showed that their rights and demands are clear and just. No lasting, comprehensive peace can be achieved in the region without these legitimate rights and demands.

AL-BA'TH says: Syria has always proceeded from the premise that the comprehensiveness of the solution definitely requires a commitment to cooperation and coordination among Arab parties. The substance and truth of this action is an expression of the unity of the Arab position and the linkage between the various tracks on the basis of firm adherence to the regaining of all rights and territory.

AL-BA'TH adds: We do not mean to brag when we recall or say once more that Syria, under President Hafiz al-Asad, is the party that has revived, and is reviving, the spirit of cohesion and firmness in the Arab position. Syria does this by stressing its commitment to solidarity and by not falling into the abyss of separate deals and individual solutions, regardless of pressures and temptations.

AL-BA'TH asserts that while fighting the battle of the 11th round of talks, Syria is underlining the danger of slipping away from Arab coordination. Syria believes the importance of continuing coordination has doubled. The need to improve Arab cooperation to avoid surprises or gaps that weaken the Arab position, harm the Arab parties' interest in the achievement of just and comprehensive peace in the region, and directly influence the Arab fate has also doubled.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: Syria will remain concerned about Arab coordination and will extend its hand to any Arab party working to strengthen this coordination, to adhere fully to Arab rights, regaining Arab territory, and achieving a just and comprehensive peace. Syria will never relinquish a single inch of its occupied territory, regardless of the circumstances and regardless of the pressures and maneuvers the peace process comes under.

AL-THAWRAH discusses the Middle East peace process and says: Arab belief in peace based on justice and comprehensiveness cannot be shaken or encroached upon by the deceptive and cunning methods Israel has been using since the start of the peace process 22 months ago.

The paper says: When the Arabs exercised self-restraint during the recent aggression against Lebanon, they did the impossible to keep the peace process from being buried under rubble caused by the savage shelling of southern villages. They were prompted by their concern to contain any threat that could have doomed the peace process to failure and disintegration. Arabs showed the world community the extent of their desire to provide the means and ways necessary to prevent any further explosion in the Middle East. That could lead the region to tragedies and disasters of unpredictable dimensions.

The paper adds: This positive Arab position does not in any way mean they can't wait for just any solution or settlement. Nor does it mean they are in a weak position that will prvent them from raising their national and unrelinquishable principles. It must be made clear that the Arabs want and seek peace, but from a position of strength that can protect rights, preserve dignity, and does not relinquish any legitimate rights.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: At any rate, the 11th round is still at its beginning. One cannot speculate about the results. In light of the major views and analyses made before this round, one can, however, see one unescapable fact: Any progress or success in this round will not be genuine or realistic unless it is made on all tracks of the negotiations. This is because the peace process is an indivisible whole. This is because the comprehensiveness of success is the only parameter that can be used to measure progress to establish genuine and just peace in the region.

Under the headline "Washington Talks The Only Framework," TISHRIN discusses the Middle East peace process. It says the world has not seen any genuine serious Israeli intent to accelerate and boost the Washington talks. The only thing the world has seen has been verbal Israeli statements not linked to any practical position. Israel resorted, instead, to maneuvers and deceptive tactics and to attempts—whose objectives are clear to everyone—to divide Arab ranks, penetrate the united Arab decision, and abuse the principles of the just solution.

TISHRIN says: The real response to these Israeli methods starts principally with a decisive and complete rejection of the Israeli step that seeks to swallow Arab territory. The response comes in the rejection of separate deals, partial solutions, and the proposals of phased settlement. All these formulas are far removed from just and comprehensive peace.

India

Lok Sabha Adopts Bill To Amend Extradition Act

BK2808143193 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] Parliament has passed an amendment bill to enlarge the scope of the Extradition Act to effectively deal with terrorism, drug trafficking, and other heinous crimes. The Lok Sabha unanimously adopted the bill today which had already been approved by the Rajya Sabha. It will empower the government to conclude extradition treaties with more foreign countries including those of the Commonwealth.

Replying to the brief debate, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, has stated that the government will use extradition laws against persons committing serious crimes abroad including economic offences. He pointed out that the Extradition Treaty with Britain has made a big difference in the London-based activities of Punjab militants.

Participating in the discussion, members from all sides supported the bill and urged the government to enter into extradition agreements with all countries where forces inimical to India are operating. They also called for strong action against drug traffickers and economic offenders.

Congress-I Spokesman: Rao Leadership 'Unchallenged'

BK3108052893 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] The Congress-I spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, today said that the party has emerged stronger from the CPP [Congress-I Parliamentary Party] meeting last week. Talking to reporters in New Delhi, he said the two-day meeting belied the expectations of a section of media that the Congress-I was split. He said the meeting also demonstrated that the leadership of Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao is unchallenged.

Commenting on the decision of a senior West Bengal minister to resign, Mr. Gadgil said this indicates the cracks in the Left Front. He admitted that the Congress-I in the state is a divided house and said efforts are on to bring about unity in the party unit.

The Congress-I Working Committee [CWC] will meet at 1830 on Saturday [4 September] in New Delhi. The Congress-I president, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, will preside over the meeting. This was announced by the AICC-I [All India Congress Committee-I] general secretary in charge of the CWC, Mr. Janardhan Poojari, in New Delhi today.

Paper Accuses Multinationals of Shortchanging Country

BK0109134593 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 21 Aug 93 p 8

[Editorial: "Multis Cock a Snook"]

[Text] The Indian investor's euphoria over the freedom given to multinationals to increase their equity stake in joint ventures is now giving way to anger and helplessness. The multis are using the freedom as a licence to shortchange the country and the Indian investor. The Government which has all along taken liberalisation to mean deregulation prefers to look the other way. It thinks that the multis are a holy cow that will bring in billions of US dollars. This is a bizarre situation. Foremost in welcoming the abolition of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA), capital issues control, etc., the Indian investor has treated the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) as a wet blanket. The Government thus got a handle to hold SEBI on a short leash. With the Department of Company Affairs in hibernation, the multis have a free run of the capital market. The policies which the Indian investor unreservedly supported have come home to roost.

Consider the capers of the multis to acquire a majority stake in Indian joint ventures. Castrol of UK which holds 40 per cent of the equity of Castrol India proposes to issue to itself 35.38 lakh shares of the Indian company at Rs[rupees]. 110 each, costing the equivalent of $11.13 million. If instead of this insider deal, the shares had been issued at anywhere around the market price of Rs. 1,070 each, the cost of increasing the holding would have been at least $85 million. Thereafter, it is proposed to make a bonus issue of one-for-one against the entire increased equity; Castrol of UK would thus make a disproportionately large draft into Castrol India's reserves, paying just $11.3 million to acquire shares worth well over $170 million. The exercise will burgeon the Indian company's equity base, ensure that the dividend gain to the foreign controlling interest is larger than to the Indian investor, and increase the dividend outgo in foreign exchange: Castrol of UK will recover the $11 million injection in two years, give or take a year! All these consequences, starting with the initial underpayment in foreign exchange (a loss to the country, but mum is the word from the Reserve Bank) also flow from US Colgate Palmolive's proposal to issue itself shares of Indian Colgate Palmolive at 10 per cent (or less) of their market value, make a one-for-one bonus issue to all shareholders and follow this up with a one-for-ten rights issue at one-thirtieth the market price. The Castrol lead, as developed by Colgate Palmolive, will undoubtedly see fresh innovations from others in the queue. Under FERA, the multis had increased the absolute size of their equity holdings through bonus issues; dividend outgo in foreign exchange had increased. With FERA abolition, net foreign exchange inflow from joint ventures will be slender, if not negative. Over to the North Block which seems hell bent on making this country a banana republic.

Paper Lauds Pakistan's Qureshi's 'Political Guts'

BK0109123993 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 23 Aug 93 p 8

[Editorial: "The Caretaker's Audacity"]

[Text] It is a veritable revolution in Pakistan. By imposing taxes on agricultural wealth for the first time in the country's history, the caretaker Prime Minister, Moeen Qureshi, has taken on the feudal landlords who have also been its unchallenged political overlords so far. None of the dominant political parties has had the courage even to propose to bring the farm-based affluence within the purview of the tax laws. As a prominent economist closely associated with the formulation of the International Monetary Fund's policies towards the developing countries, Qureshi could not but have found this situation unacceptable any longer. But he must be lauded as much for the radical departure he has now made from an archaic approach to economic growth as for the political guts he has shown in doing so. He did not flinch from deciding what he thought was indispensable for Pakistan's economy by taking cover under his limited mandate which is to organise elections in October.

The immediate benefit that Pakistan is expected to derive as a result of Qureshi's trail-blazing decision is obvious. An official of the IMF has said that its management will recommend to the Executive Board approval of the Pakistani request for assistance in support of the country's financial adjustment and reform programme. Without such help, Qureshi is clearly convinced that it will be difficult to avert Pakistan drifting into insolvency. Will this incontestable fact silence political critics of reform who have traditionally patronised the main parties? It is hard to say at the moment. Any attack on Qureshi for having exceeded his authority as the care-taker Prime Minister will have to be weighed against the certain support which his bid to change an iniquitous as well as backward-looking status quo is bound to evoke among the party cadres and the people at large. In this sense, he has put the leadership of each party in a dilemma.

Indeed, the entire election campaign in Pakistan in the next two months may well acquire a wholesome tenor. All the indications have so far been of the ground being prepared for unbridled mutual mudslinging between the leaders of the Pakistan People's Party on the one hand and rival factions of the Pakistan Muslim League on the other. Likewise, the campaign would normally witness an ugly recrudescence of sectarian and provincial feuds. At the very least, the party leaders may be diverted from familiar pastimes of this kind to some extent and find it necessary to put before the people credible programmes for their economic and social welfare. This apart, Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif will be interested in finding out how the army leadership as a whole has taken Qureshi's audacity. After all, the army officer corps is dominated by the sons of the landed gentry. Altogether, a novel campaign is on the cards.

Joint Agriculture Ventures With Israel Planned

BK0109125093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] India and Israel are to set up several joint ventures in agriculture. These include drip irrigation, processing and storage of fruits and vegetables, and animal food. The decision was taken today in New Delhi during a meeting between the agriculture minister, Mr. Bal Ram Jakhar, and the chairman of the leading group of companies in Israel, Mr. (S.N. Isenberg). The visiting top Isareli industrialist expressed his country's keen desire to share its technical know-how with India.

Iran

Russia Willing To 'Cooperate' on Karabakh Conflict

LD3108202093 Tehran IRNA in English 1611 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 31, IRNA—A senior Russian official underlined the significant role Iran played in the region and said his country is willing to cooperate with Tehran to find a solution to Karabakh conflict. Director General of the West and South Asian Department at Russian Foreign Ministry Yuriy Kotov made the remark in a meeting with Iran's interim Charge d'Affaires Majid Qahremani, Monday.

Expressing concern over recent developments in Karabakh, he said Russia had voiced its concern over unfullfilled Resolutions 822 and 853 of the U.N. Security Council in this regard. The Russian official noted that his country had condemned military attacks on Karabakh and called on the head of the U.N. Security Council to rely on his personal influence on the Armenian side for solving the problem.

During the meeting, Qahremani presented a message by the Iranian foreign minister, Ali Akbar Velayati, addressed to the Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev on current developments in Karabakh.

Official Denies Tehran Barring Azeri War Refugees

LD2908105793 Tehran IRNA in English 0933 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] Pars Abad-e Moqan, Ardebil Prov., Aug. 29, IRNA—An Iranian official ruled out fabricated reports by some foreign news media on Iran preventing war refugees of the Republic of Azerbaijan to enter its territory.

Musa Alinejad, governor of Pars Abad-e Moqan, northwest Iran, Saturday told IRNA that local officials were fully prepared to warmly welcome the Azeri refugees once they crossed the borders to Iran.

He stressed that the problem of crossing Aras border river was the main reason for Azeri refugees not being able to enter Iran at that point en masse.

However, the official added, required facilities had been provided in Moqan region in case Azeri refugees entered the Iranian territory in large groups.

Over the past two days, a number of Azeri refugees who were suffering from serious illness, had undergone treatment in the town's hospital, he noted.

Alinejad said that large quantities of relief supply, including foodstuff and medicine, were being sent to the homeless Azeri Muslims beyond Aras river through Iranian border posts.

Foodstuffs, Drinking Water Sent to Azeri Refugees

LD0109102993 Tehran IRNA in English 0902 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] Khoda Afarin, East Azarbaijan Prov., Sep. 1, IRNA—Iran has sent a remarkable amount of relief supply, including foodstuff and medicine, to Azerbaijan Republic over the past two days to help Azeri refugees, an informed Army official told IRNA Wednesday. He added that during the last two days, only through Khoda Afarin border, the refugees had been provided with foodstuff and drinking water.

Border officials of Azerbaijan Republic have asked Iran to provide them with medical supply to help treatment of homeless Azeris. The official noted that following escalation of Armenian aggression to the cities of 'Kobadli' and 'Zangalan', a large number of rural people have moved to south and east to flee the artillery attacks of Armenian forces.

Azerbaijan Request for Refugee Camps Considered

NC0209083993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Azerbaijan's officials have asked the Islamic Republic of Iran to establish refugee camps in their border areas for people who have been made refugees by Armenia's intensive attacks. In a statement to IRNA, an official of the Iranian Ministry of Internal Affairs' Foreigners Department said the request was being considered. He also stressed that the Iranian establishments and organizations are prepared to move to establish refugee camps in Azerbaijan as soon as they are instructed to do so.

Iran established camps for refugees in Sadarak in the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic in 1992. [passage omitted]

Azerbaijan Referendum, Elchibey's Competence Eyed

LD3008112693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1000 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] A referendum was held yesterday in the Azerbaijan republic asking the view of the people of the republic about the competency of the country's dismissed president, Abulfaz Aliyev Elchibey. The referendum in the Azerbaijan republic was held at a time when the republic is going through a very difficult period. Beside the critical economic situation which has engulfed the Azerbaijan republic, the uncontrollable attacks by Armenian forces against various sections of the Azerbaijan republic have threatened the republic's political stability and territorial sovereignty and have made hundreds of thousands of people homeless in the southern parts of the country. [passage omitted]

In his short term of leadership [Abulfaz] Aliyev [Elchibey] not only failed to reach his declared goals regarding putting an end to the Armenian aggression and attaining economic reform, but quickly lost public support through adapting a monopolistic method contrary to the principles of democracy and human rights that he had declared in his program. His actions even caused a division within the Popular Front which was led by him and did not allow the formation of an extensive coalition of the Azerbaijani forces to face the country's great problems.

Political observers believe that the majority of the Azerbaijani people have voted against Abulfaz Aliyev. Of course the earlier forecast made the supporters of the former president try to stop the referendum.

Despite the fact that in some of the town of the self-autonomous republic of Nakhjavan, due to the problems created by the supporters of Abulfaz Aliyev, the referendum was not held properly, but various reports indicate that the greater majority of the Azerbaijani people have voted.

Caretaker President Geydar Aliyev who is trying, before anything else, to strengthen the legal foundations of his rule and transfer power peacefully and legally, is aiming to use the outcome of the referendum to hold new presidential and parliamentary elections within the next three months. This will allow him to prepare the grounds for a stronger and a more legitimate government in Azerbaijan. In the meantime he is facing various difficulties: on the one hand secessionist agitations in the north and south of Azerbaijan have been keeping him busy in the past several weeks and on the other hand he has to deal with the country's critical economic problems. Despite these fact and before strengthening the legal and legitimate foundations of his government, he will not be able to reach any acceptable results in other fields.

Aliyev is one of the more experienced politicians of the Caucasus and Trans-Caucasus who is trying to create a balance between domestic and foreign forces and it seems that if he fails to act in order to attract public support then he will be facing new problems.

More than anything else the people of Azerbaijan are interested in maintaining their independence, territorial integrity, and then improving the country's economic well being, and this is the measure by which the country's dismissed President Abulfaz Aliyev was judged.

West Creating 'Ghettos' for Bosnian Muslims

NC0109181793 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 21 Aug 93 p 16

[Unattributed political commentary: "The Creation of 'Ghettos' for the Bosnian Muslims by the West"]

[Excerpts] Deliberations concluded yesterday in Geneva. During the talks the West, especially Britain and France, put great pressure on the Muslims. The talks will resume in 10 days. [passage omitted]

The plan the West has hatched for the Muslims of Bosnia- Herzegovina bears great resemblance to medieval plans. The Muslims will be relegated to ghettos just like the mendicants of the Middle Ages. In these ghettos, there was neither food nor water, neither prestige nor honor! In these ghettos to which the West has consigned the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the residents will have to proffer their begging bowls to the Serbs and the Croats! Even then, there is no guarantee that they will be allowed to remain in peace there.

It has become clear to all Muslims and the freedom-loving people of the world that Bosnia-Herzegovina is the victim of force and genocide, which was further consolidated by the United Nations, the United States, and Europe. The Europeans are holding talks with the Serbian aggressors—who pillaged an independent country and perpetrated actions that the tongue is too ashamed to even mention—instead of chastising and reprimanding them. They not only endorse their usurpation, they even prepared a map and gave them the usurped territories!

The new world order of the United States and the Europeans bears a great similarity to other plots and plans. Such Western actions are not unprecedented. The same designs that are now being implemented for the Bosnians by David Owen were implemented in the Middle East before, that is, by the creation of a pseudostate that drove out the original citizens of the land known as Palestine.

In any case, the performance of the United Nations, Europe and the United States in connection with the events in Bosnia- Herzegovina is blacker than ever. The consequences of their unforgivable sins, their violations of human rights, and their endorsement of genocide will certainly come home to roost. The West and Europe will definitely pay the penalty for the massive cruel atrocities perpetrated in Bosnia-Herzegovina. They will never be able to give an answer to the world and to posterity for the destruction of an independent country which is a UN member.

Rejection of Israeli Proposal on Lebanon Viewed

NC2808112993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Commentary by News Commentaries Group]

[Text] The Lebanese Government and the Islamic and nationalist factions of that country have rejected Israel's proposal for its conditional withdrawal from the occupied areas in southern Lebanon.

Israel propounded the following conditions for its withdrawal from Lebanon: Disarming Hizballah, stationing Lebanese forces on the border with occupied Palestine, guaranteeing the security of northern Israel by the Lebanese Government, merging the paramilitary units of Antoine Lahd—mercenaries who for over a decade colluded with the Zionist usurpers—into the Lebanese Armed Forces and not prosecuting them.

Political experts believe the opposition by the Lebanese Government and Islamic and nationalistic factions of the country to these proposals is due to the following reasons:

First, the Israeli proposal blatantly violates the independence of the Lebanese Government. The condition to disarm Hizballah and merge Lahd's mercenaries into the Lebanese Armed Forces is tantamount to dictating terms to the Lebanese Government and interfering in its internal affairs. If the Lebanese Government were to accept the Israeli offer, it would mean granting legitimacy to Israel's interference in Lebanon's internal affairs.

Second, merging the Lahd mercenaries would be nothing less than officially appointing the enemy's fifth column to this sensitive military organization. In addition, the acceptance of the existence of the sworn enemy of the independence and unity of Lebanon in the country's Armed Forces would spawn various kinds of wanton sedition.

Third, acquiescing to Israel's proposals would contravene Security Council Resolution 425, on the basis of which the Zionist regime should withdraw from the occupied areas of Lebanon unconditionally. If the Lebanese Government accepted the latest conditional proposal for withdrawal, it would open the path for Israel to impose similar conditions in the so-called peace talks on the Security Council Resolution 242, which would result in immense pressure on the Syrians and Palestinians.

In addition to these problems, accepting Israel's conditional proposals would grant massive privileges to this regime, that is, a victorious withdrawal from Lebanon. In the wake of the recent series of daring operations of the Islamic Resistance against the occupationist forces in southern Lebanon, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin conceded that the invincible Israeli army had been unsuccessful and other ways and means should be sought to end the conflict in southern Lebanon.

In other words, following its military defeat at the hands of the devout Islamic combatants, Israel is forced to retreat from Lebanon and in such circumstances, it would be illogical to accept conditions imposed by the vanquished side as its concomitant repercussions would upset the current balance of power to the detriment of the people and Government of Lebanon.

U.S.-Israeli Bid To Malign Islam Seen

NC2708162193 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 11 Aug 93 pp 1-2

[Editorial: "Regimes Flexing Muscles Against Islam Will Not Affect the Determination of Nations"—quotation marks as published]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

In conjunction with the crimes perpetrated by the Zionist regime and the hue and cry raised by the Israeli usurpers to bring the Islamic Resistance in Lebanon to its knees, some of the Arab regimes have embarked on suppressing Islamic movements in their countries.

The security forces of most Arab regimes have mustered all their resources and might to combat Islamic activists; not a day goes by without the arrest of Muslim youths and requests for their execution, an execution verdict, or the martyring of some youths in Egypt, Algeria, and elsewhere.

In tandem with these dastardly efforts, another campaign is afoot—one to deliberately make people forget the "Israeli danger" and to pave the way for Israeli influence to infiltrate the government structure, the economy, and even the security systems of the Arab governments.

Experience has proved that the greater the efforts by regimes to uproot the Islamic activists, the greater the spread of the Islamic struggles. The more the Arab regimes seek to project that the Israeli danger has been plunged into oblivion and that Islam is the "regional danger," the more vigilant are the nations and never in a defensive position.

The secret of this amazing situation should be sought in the awareness of nations and in the disgraceful behavior of Islam's enemies. The region's Muslim nations have achieved a high level of political acumen over the years and have vividly displayed that they comprehend the complexities of regional issues and the Islamic world.

Although the nations are suffering the tribulations resulting from the great treachery by the obsequious Arab regimes, they know full well that events in the region represent a joint U.S.-Israeli plan calculated to wipe the "Israeli danger" from the minds of nations and to introduce Islam as the real danger. Now the nations have witnessed that Islam is the sole means of their salvation. This is why the intensive U.S-Israeli efforts to present Islam as the "regional danger" have borne no fruit and the nations continue to strive with all their being to revive their lost grandeur and greatness. They are counting the minutes until they can hoist the banner of Islam and proudly establish an Islamic government on their land.

If we view events in the region from this perspective, we will conclude that the nations are the final victors in any effort by the reactionary Arab regimes to test their strength against Islam. They will take Islam toward its ultimate victory with their indefatigable struggle.

How long can a regime without strong roots, which clings to the United States' and Israel's skirts, depend on them? With their brilliant and revolutionary backing, Islamic nations will consent to nothing less than the rule of Islam. Regimes' insistence on trying to combat Islam can never undermine the people's indomitable will.

Turkish-Israeli Security Pact Seen Posing Threat

NC2708154693 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 16 Aug 93 p 12

[Hasan Fathi commentary: "Turkish-Israeli Unanimity on Crushing Opponents"]

[Excerpts] Israel has a long record of crushing its opponents and massacring the Palestinians and is also the main director of government-sponsored terrorism on the international level. For some time it has placed its experience of annihilating opponents at the disposal of other governments that want to capitalize on these experiences against their opponents.

Israel has offered its services to the South African regime to crush the blacks, to India to suppress the Kashmiri Muslims, and to Sri Lanka to use against the Tamils. We can see the Zionists' hand in bloodshed throughout the world.

The Zionists have extended their activity to the Iranian border by stepping up their cooperation with the Turkish regime and by signing an official security accord to combat dissident movements and Islamic movements in general. [passage omitted]

The Turkish officials claim to have a secular government, so they do not pay attention to religious issues. This is how they justify their unanimity with Israel in suppressing Muslims and dissidents.

Turkey is a NATO member and one of the U.S. allies in a sensitive and strategic area of the region. It acts as an agent for the White House and for Tel Aviv, which is why it seeks to foment tension on the Iran-Iraq border. All the Turks' efforts in perpetrating such actions and in becoming a U.S. and Israeli agent among Muslims are aimed at gaining EC membership. In this way, Turkey seeks to convince the EC leaders that it is opposed to Islam and Islamic thinking and has extensive relations with its enemies.

Perhaps the policy adopted by Ankara could yield results and ultimately muster the concurrence of Greece, which is Turkey's main opponent, thus Turkey would gain its EC membership. But more important is the role played by Ankara.

Ankara is currently playing a sensitive role in generating tension in Azerbaijan and on the Iran-Iraq border. Perhaps it would become a major exporter of terrorism to its neighboring countries. One reason is its unanimity with Israel. That is why the Turks use the same tactics to suppress Kurdish dissidents as the Zionists use in south Lebanon.

The unity and solidarity between Turkey and Israel, the results of which were seen in the past week, sound the alarm bells for the region's independent nations and warn them of the collusion and connivance. The Turks and Zionists have proved they will use every tactic and are ready to trample international norms to achieve their objectives.

U.S. UN Envoy's Remarks Underscore 'Arrogance'

NC2708170393 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 12 Aug 93 p 1

[Reza Sokhansanj commentary: "U.S. Abuse of Security Council Forum"]

[Excerpts] The audacity and illogical behavior of the U.S. echelons has entered a new phase. In the new international circumstances, they consider themselves the sole superpower. For them, being a superpower denotes extortion, creating an uproar, and blatant violation and abuse of international norms!

The Americans have resorted to a series of actions in the past few months, actions unprecedented in their foolishness. [passage omitted]

The abuse of the forum of the United Nations and the Security Council such that it harms other nations and intervention in other countries' affairs are among the measures currently being taken by the Americans.

The recent remarks of the United States' UN representative at a UN session are memorable examples of a U.S.-tailored new world order, one characterized by fallacious logic, pomposity, and arrogance. The eventual result of such a world order is nothing but disarray and the escalation of conflict and war. [passage omitted]

The United States' fury stems from the uncompromising Iranian stance in the past 15 years in the face of the domineering and arrogant policies of the White House. The impudent remarks by the U.S. representative at the United Nations, overstepping every limit, are an indication of the White House pessimism over being unable to forge relations with Iran.

Regrettably, the United Nations and the Security Council, which professes to defend the UN Charter with such arrogance and professes to adhere to laws and diplomatic norms, have degenerated to become the exclusive stomping ground of the Americans and implement their wishes, contravening the obligations of the Security Council and its secretary general!

The ludicrous remarks by the U.S. representative at the United Nations are not only a major insult to the government and people of Iran, but also show the abuse of the Security Council forum by that country and its inattention to the framework stipulated in the UN Charter.

That a country should obtain the right—in an organization related to nations, at least it was ostensibly created for this purpose—to divide countries into various categories and to denigrate them, does not conform to any international norm. The United States has toyed with the United Nations, the Security Council, and all the international associations and brought ridicule on them.

Italy's 'Increasing Audacity' Criticized

NC2708155993 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 12 Aug 93 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "Italy Should Learn Lesson"]

[Excerpts] The Italian Parliament wants to launch another hostile move against the Islamic Republic of Iran to tarnish bilateral relations. Some decisionmaking centers in Italy occasionally adopt anti-Iranian postures and endanger their country's interests.

The vicissitudes in Iranian-Italian relations resulting from the airing of opinions by some Italian officials are also part of this trend. But, later, those who utter such remarks hastily express regret, merely proving their tendency to make snap judgments.

It might be worthwhile to ponder the effects of the influence of various groups, especially of the Monafeqin [meaning hypocrites—pejorative term for the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization], who enjoy the support of most government factions, especially the Italian Parliament, and create occasional crises.

Last month, a member of this group met the heads of the Foreign Committee, the Senate, and some members of the Italian Parliament. The head of the delegation, who is a member of the Monafeqin, had travelled to Italy earlier in connection with the assassination of Mohammad Hoseyn Naqdi. [passage omitted]

The Monafeqin group freely operates in Italy, but, since Italy enjoys very lucrative economic relations with Iran, it does not officially recognize such activity. That the counter-revolutionary groups enjoy broad facilities in carrying out their negative propaganda against Iran displays the true face of the Italian Government.

Iran continues to stress that it abides by its declared principles and has affirmed its adherence to foreign relations based on the pursuit of reciprocal interests with genuine goodwill. It appears that this ethical policy and restraint by Iran have motivated the Western countries, including Italy, to continue their hostile policies, so it would be appropriate for the officials to contemplate an alternative, more befitting policy.

It is suggested that the speaker of the Islamic Majles should stress to the Italian Parliament that continuing such a policy can harm bilateral relations. That Rome is quite complacent about continuing profitable relations with Tehran according to the conditions it dictates is the main reason for this country's increasing audacity when it comes to Iran.

President's 'Hasty' Move After Majles Vote Viewed

NC2708153193 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 18 Aug 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Legislative Power"]

[Text] After two days of lengthy debates, the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majles) finally gave vote of confidence to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's cabinet. The Economics and Finance Minister, Dr. Mohsen Nurbakhsh, was the only cabinet member who failed to obtain the required of votes of confidence.

The failure of Dr. Nurbakhsh who was actually short of four positive votes, produced a considerable shock in the political circles in the country.

Before the start of the debates at the Majles, it was generally believed that the ministers of petroleum, construction Jehad, mines and metals, and post, telegraph and telephone did not have very good prospects at the Majles. But the four ministers managed to get the necessary votes of confidence after the strong arguments the president presented in defense of his cabinet members.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani appointed Dr. Nurbakhsh as vice- president in economic affairs only a few hours after the result of the Majles' decision regarding him became known. The appointment has been interpreted as a clear indication of the president's dissatisfaction with the votes of the parliamentarians.

The president is of course entitled to choose an assistant in the economic affairs, but such a prompt reaction to the representatives' votes was not perhaps worthy of the president.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani had been Majles speaker for many years, and he is quite aware that the sacred institution of the Islamic Consultative Assembly is still in the tender age of growth, as it were, and requires the moral support of the all the people concerned to grow into a sturdy tree. The contemporary Iranian history has demonstrated that the weakening of the Parliament has always had dire consequences for the country with which we are all familiar.

On the other hand, no one claims that the Majles is an infallible institution. But even if it is true that the representatives have made a grave blunder, still such a hasty response on the part of the president was quite beyond the general expectations, and reveals a sort of nervousness and irritable disposition which is not at all becoming of the president of the Islamic Republic.

Let us not forget that Imam 'Ali (AS) had warned his followers against making important decisions under the influence of anger.

The bitter experience of history has taught us that an independent and dynamic parliament, which might make mistakes now and then, is preferable to a subdued Consultative Assembly which does not dare to speak against the Executive Branch.

President Urges Diplomats To Preserve Islamic Ideals

NC0209074193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0230 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani addressed the concluding session of a seminar in which our country's diplomatic representatives abroad were participating. He elaborated on the country's overall economic policy.

Summing up the results of the completion of programs for growth and development, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated: Society's condition indicates that Iran should surmount its major problems and difficulties and forge ahead toward progress and self-sufficiency.

Our correspondent reports on the president's remarks:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] Continuing his address, the president said that in the first socioeconomic development [five-year] plan, much fundamental and infrastructural work has been completed in various sectors and the outcome of our investment will yield premiums during the second five-year plan, when we tread the paths chosen for the country's development.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed that the revamping of the country's economy, adjustment of parity rates, and greater participation by the people in the economic and production sectors are part of the priorities of the government's economic policies in the future.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the president emphasized that Iranian foreign policy is based on forging friendly relations and cooperation with most countries. He exhorted our diplomatic representatives, saying: As Iran's ambassadors, your activities to explain and clarify the entire policy of the system play an important role in achieving this goal and for bilateral closeness with every country, especially our neighbors.

Stressing the need to preserve the strong spirit of Islamic ideals and revolutionary thinking, Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: You are representatives of this thinking and should exemplify its principles. You should strive to see that religious principles and obligations are not harmed. [end recording]

Arak Explosion Causes Injuries, Damage

LD0109162893 Tehran IRNA in English 1604 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] Arak, Sep. 1, IRNA—An explosion occured today on Imam Khomeyni Street here, causing damage to life and property.

The blast, possibly caused by gas leakage, occured at 1530 hours, shattering windows of nearby buildings and damaging several shops, a laboratory, a high school and a printing house.

Eyewitnesses said four persons injured in the blast were rushed to hospital.

There is yet no report on the cause of explosion or the number of casualties. The law enforcement officials in Arak, 280 kilometers south of Tehran, are searching for the cause of blast.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Opens Oil Refinery in Arak

LD0209104693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] The country's seventh oil refinery was commissioned this morning in the presence of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. At the inaugural ceremony of this big project, the president made a speech in which he said that the effects of the implementation of such projects are highly beneficial for the country.

One of our colleagues at Arak's Central News Unit brings you a summary of the president's speech.

[Correspondent] Thanks to large-scale, fundamental, national projects most of the conditions in our country have changed and will take on a new form. This road leads to the full independence and greatness of the country, the people's prosperity and social justice. Speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the seventh refinery at Arak Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: The commissioning of the Arak refinery is one of my oldest wishes, which came true today. I thank those involved in this task.

He said: Arak's refinery project was implemented on schedule and completed well. I saw on the computer monitor the refinery's optimum capacity. The capacity of this big project has reached 150,000 barrels a day. Referring to the benefits gained from the commissioning of this oil project Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The first benefit of this refinery is that a considerable portion of our country's fuel requirement will be refined at the complex. This will bring about confidence in life [as heard], saving in transport and many other benefits.

He said: The second benefit gained from the commissioning of this project is a $400 million foreign exchange saving, and an annual profit of $200 million will be gained by the country.

At the end of his speech our country's president said: Undoubtedly, the impact of this project on peripheral industries and industries in which our country's specialists have been given training will be very high in the Central Province and throughout the country. The look of the Central Province will be totally transformed in future years.

President Inaugurates Tehran Metallurgy Institute

LD2908111493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Excerpts] On the occasion of Government Week, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani inaugurated the Metallurgy Institute of Tehran University this morning.

According to our correspondent's report, the president addressed a group of the country's industrial researchers and university lecturers. In his address he stressed the necessity for broadening the field of cooperation between universities and Iran's research and industrial centers. The president described the funding of this institute, which has been undertaken by the Ministry of Mines and Metals, as an example of such cooperation that inspires much hope. He said: The presence of oil and the income generated by its sale has for years impeded the services that research can render to industrial and technological development. [sentence as heard] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: We are intent on gradually freeing the country from its reliance on oil. At the same time we intend to bring about a close and logical relationship between research and industrial concerns.

The chairman of the Higher Council of the Cultural Revolution [Rafsanjani] said that Iran is a country rich in mineral and energy resources. He emphasized the necessity for the proper utilization of the country's assets, and said: Infrastructural tasks need infrastructural research. This can only materialize through sincere solidarity among the country's researchers, for whom better and more suitable conditions must be created. [passage omitted on further emphasis on importance of research]

Our correspondent's report also indicates that before President Rafsanjani's address, the ministers of mines and metals and culture and higher education made some remarks, describing their viewpoints on ways to strengthen cooperation between research and industrial centers. [passage omitted]

President Underlines Role of Security in Intelligence

LD0109124093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 1 Aug 93

[Excerpts] At a gathering of the minister and officials of the Intelligence Ministry this morning, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that safeguarding the holy ideals of the Islamic revolution and maintaining security and stability in the society, in the period of reconstruction and progress and development of the country, is among the fundamental duties of the Intelligence Ministry and the Armed Forces.

The president said: Those who are worried about the rule of pure Muhammadan Islam in the country have opened an extensive front against Iran, and in various ways and with baseless accusations are trying to weaken the Islamic revolution and disturb our national security. [passage omitted on Rafsanjani praising and thanking the audience for their efforts]

Recounting the country's fundamental and infrastructural progress over the past four years and the optimistic outlook of the country, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Realizing this the enemies are attempting, by magnifying the problems and belittling the country's great achievements and development programs, to prevent the evolvement of an independent and self-sufficient Iran which has successfully left behind all its problems, by relying on its holy Islamic principles and goals.

He added: But the alertness and politico-sociological maturity of the revolutionary people of Iran and the efforts and hard work of the security and law enforcement forces and the planning and wisdom of the authorities will prevent the enemies from attaining their accursed goals.

The president said that maintaining sincere relations with the public and gaining their satisfaction and trust concerning the achievements of the revolution and the security of the society was a great asset for the intelligence forces. He impressed on them to counteract the hostilities of world arrogance through correctness at work and by raising the level of awareness and experience and fully understanding the country's security situation.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that accomplishing all the country's construction projects and targets in the second five-year socio- economic development plan depended on safeguarding and strengthening security in the society against domestic and foreign ill-wishers. He expressed the hope that with the people's continued and all- around presence on the scene and the efforts of the authorities further success could be achieved in the future.

President Praises Basijis' Role in Government

LD3008132093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Excerpts] We begin this bulletin with a report about the meeting between a group of basijis working in ministries, government offices, and institutions and President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. You heard some of the remarks made by the president in the meeting earlier in the bulletin. Now let me draw your attention to the rest of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's remarks.

During the meeting, His Excellency Hashemi-Rafsanjani reviewed the pride-inspiring memories of the period of holy defense [the Iran-Iraq war] and said that the selfless basijis stepped into the jihad as the most effective instrument of the years of defense and in the most difficult conditions endured by the country and the revolution. Their presence in the battlefront, in work places, in schools, and in universities infected people with revolutionary and jihadi zeal and enthusiasm.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the psychological and spiritual effects of the basiji movement on the young, on families, and on work places and, stressing the importance of the presence of basijis in government offices and organs, he said: The presence of the faithful and devoted basijis, as a clear manifestation of jihad and selfless service in government offices, can serve as a model and a lesson for others.

He stressed the need to safeguard the spirit of basij in government offices and organs as a valuable investment remaining from the time of jihad, and added: We would like all office workers to be like the basijis, but, bearing in mind your past performance during times of battle and jihad, we also expect you to play a more active part—with the same spirit as you showed during the years of holy defense—in the task of reconstruction and in advancing the sacred ideals of the Islamic revolution. [passage omitted]

According to the report, at the start of the meeting, Brigadier Guard [Sartip Pasdar] Afshar, commander of the basij resistance force, delivered a speech in which he expressed gratitude for the president's consistent support for strengthening the basij, and said: At present, 14,000 basijis, employed in 22 ministries in Tehran and organized into eight 'Ashura battalions, are ready for civil defense purposes and for promoting the culture of basij.

Eqlid Satellite Station Becomes Operational

NC2808093493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] On the occasion of Government Week, the new satellite station at Eqlid went into operation. Henceforth, the residents of Eqlid and the neighboring villages will be able to view the programs of the first and second networks of the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran on channels five and seven with good reception. This station has two 50-watt [as heard] transmitters.

Third Television Network To Begin Transmission

NC2908095693 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 22 Aug 93 p 2

[Report by KEYHAN correspondent in Orumiyeh]

[Text] With the third network of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran going into operation, the people of 30 cities will be able to view the programs of this station beginning 23 September.

A technical official from the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran center in West Azerbaijan, Engineer Khezri, made this announcement on the morning television program of Western Azerbaijan center. While confirming the inauguration of network three, he added: Technical cadres are currently working on putting this network into operation on 23 September; its programs will be broadcast to 30 cities.

He stated: With the completion of construction work on the powerful television station for covering the entire southern area of Western Azerbaijan, the station will become fully operational by the end of the current year. He attributed the poor television reception in the province to the mountainous area and power outages at the stations. He stressed that the new station was well-equipped, adding: A project for the construction of a powerful transmitter for covering the area east of Lake Orumiyeh is under way.

Engineer Khezri said: If the necessary conditions exist, local stations will be set up in all villages with a population of over 1,500 people.

New Weekly REY Begins Publication 15 Aug

NC2908144193 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 22 Aug 93 p 7

[Unattributed report]

[Text] With the blessings of the holy shrine of 'Abdol 'Azim the first edition of the REY magazine was published with 16 pages. The first issue of this publication was disseminated on 15 August with domestic and foreign news, various political and economic articles and sports features.

The weekly REY devoted a section of its first edition to an interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Reyshahri who is custodian of the 'Abdol 'Azim holy shrine. He explained the cultural objectives of the weekly as more attention to the affairs of the deprived and young people. In his interview, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Reyshahri stated: I hope that the criterion for this publication will be to project the truth and to incur God's pleasure in all social and economic circumstances, regardless of how difficult and bitter the truth may be; therefore, the criterion should be that there should be no tampering with the facts.

Continuing his remarks on the objectives of REY, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Reyshahri stated: The magazine should pay serious attention to the deprived level of society, as this is one of the criteria of pure Islam on which the late imam insisted so strongly.

In response to a question on how the REY magazine will manage to be a wholesome link between the people and the government from the point of view of criticism, Reyshahri said: It is one of the duties of the media to reflect the services of the government to the people and vice versa and I hope the REY magazine will make specific efforts in this regard and will also assist in conveying the people's problems to the government.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Reyshahri stressed that we should have a sense of justice in expression of views and criticism. He added: I believe that discussing weaknesses and difficulties within the framework of certain rules and keeping justice and Islamic ethics in view is the foremost policy of the system and the Revolution.

Another point worth mentioning with regard to the REY magazine is that it is an independent magazine. The country needs independent media and the more independent the media are, the better it can serve the independence of the country. [ETTELA'AT footnote: We hope that the staff of the weekly REY and in particular its editor in chief Ahmadpur Nejati are successful in their venture.]

Censorship of Prosecutor's Suicide Criticized

NC0109183593 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 21 Aug 93 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "The News Agency Is Also at Fault"]

[Text] The report on the suicide of the Islamic Revolution prosecutor in Rasht and IRNA's just complaint against officials regarding the censoring of this news once again highlights the weakness of our news-disseminating system. As for our officials, it is nothing new. They usually display such indifference and even if there is no need to do so, they prevent the dissemination of such news. The important point to stress here is negligence of the shortcomings of our news- disseminating apparatus in performing its obligations.

News is not something to be hoarded; it should be disseminated, but in a reasonable manner. Those who censor reports such as the suicide of this prosecutor or of the arrest of a certain official on charges of embezzlement or corruption are in fact seeking to cover their weakness in being able to publish such reports reasonably. Of course such a weakness should not be masked. If they act in a swift and strong manner, they can print such reports without any loss of time and gradually follow them up with more complete information, which should also be placed at the public's disposal as soon as it is obtained.

Regardless of the reason for the officials' conduct, the obligation of news agencies and newspapers is not to sit twiddling their thumbs expressing regret if they do have access to such reports. Our news system should carry such news as soon as it is received and should thus motivate officials to display the necessary dynamism in clarifying the matter. This would result in providing the correct information to public opinion on such events and would eliminate the subliminal pressures on various apparatuses, especially the judicial department.

If all were to approach realities with complete sincerity and without any considerations—keeping public opinion in view—it would prevent the enemy media from capitalizing on the situation. Is it not preferable that instead of contenting themselves with mere complaints, news agencies should act on their obligations?

Pakistan

Qureshi Comments on Elections, Economy, Narcotics

BK0109164093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] The caretaker prime minister has reiterated that the forthcoming election process will be transparent and peaceful despite attempts by certain internal and external elements to subvert the polls. He said he himself was not interested in pursuing a political career. Addressing a news conference of foreign journalists in Islamabad today, Mr. Moin Qureshi said he was setting a good direction for the future elected government and was confident that his decisions would not be reversed because top political leaders have already been consulted about these decisions. The prime minister said his economic program was aimed at sound fiscal and monetary policies, keeping inflation at a lower rate, making the rupee fully convertible and building up the country's foreign exchange reserve. He pointed out that foreign exchange reserve was virtually nonexistent when he took over and the country's commitments were very large. This necessitated steps to improve balance of payment, including devaluation of the rupee against the dollar. The devaluation had quickly arrested the decline in exports, increased foreign exchange reserve, and thus a crisis was averted. Mr. Moin Qureshi hoped that within the three months period of his caretaker government, he would be able to remove whatever restrictions still remain in the economy.

The prime minister said there is only a small segment of society agitating against the recent price hike and the people understand the reason which compelled the government to improve the country's economy. He said the prices of some commodities were at the low international level as a result of which we had become heavily dependent on their import.

Referring to the campaign against drug trafficking, the prime minister said the army's help has been sought in overcoming this menace. The government plans to take action against opium cultivation and drug trafficking and it would start prosecution of known drug traffickers.

He referred to the incidents of violence at some places and said these terrorist activities were aimed at fomenting trouble ahead of the October elections. However, the government, he added, will make allout efforts to track down the culprits and bring them to justice.

Expounds on Price Hike

BK0109143293 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] The caretaker prime minister, Mr. Moin Qureshi, has said that there is only a small segment of society agitating at the recent price hike of the commodities of daily use, but these were long due and the people understand the reasons which forced his government to take these measures. He was talking to foreign correspondents based in Islamabad.

[Begin Qureshi recording] I think that there is a small segment of the community that is trying to agitate against some of these changes. You have to recognize though that no consumer likes prices to rise. Unfortunately, some of these prices were held below prevailing international levels and, as a result, we have become heavily dependent on the imports of some of these products. Take petroleum or wheat for example, or even vegetable oils. These are the three basic commodities for which we have increased prices. In the case of wheat, this country has some of the best soils in the world to grow wheat. There is no reason why we should have imported 2 million tons of wheat last year, and the reason is because the farmer does not get an appropriate profit margin in growing wheat. By giving him a somewhat higher price, we are giving him a profit margin, and I am quite confident in fact that the next crop is going to be very good and we will not need to import wheat from abroad. We are spending more than half a billion dollars on the imports of wheat. And the same is to the vegetable oils. We are spending more than half a billion dollars on vegetable oil imports. [end recording]

Qureshi Rules Out Amnesty for Bhutto's Brother

BK0109164493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0953 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 1 (AFP)—Interim Pakistam Premier Moin Qureshi, ruling out amnesty for former premier Benazir Bhutto's exiled brother, said Wednesday [1 September] that Murtaza Bhutto would have to face the judicial process upon his return home.

"I have been asked whether we can grant him amnesty, but there are a number of cases pending and awaiting trial," Qureshi said at his first press conference for foreign journalists since taking over two months ago.

"I can see no reason how we can grant amnesty to one person against whom there a number of legal cases and not grant amnesty to a lot of other people who are in a very similar position," added Qureshi, 63.

He said he had sought legal advice on the request, reportedly made by Murtaza Bhutto's mother Nusrat, after the younger Bhutto decided to participate in the October elections as an independent candidate.

"My impression is that (amnesty) will be very difficult in view of the cases against him," Qureshi said, adding that he saw "no justification" for making an exception for the son of the late prime minister Zulkifar Ali Bhutto.

Murtaza Bhutto, 38, went into self-imposed exile in Syria after the 1977 overthrow of his father by the late military ruler General Muhammed Ziaul Haq, who executed him two years later for an alleged political murder conspiracy.

As leader of the Al-Zulfikar Group, Murtaza Bhutto was implicated in the 1981 hijacking of a Pakistani airliner and several other acts of alleged terrorism, sentenced in absentia to 14 years in prison and declared an "absconder."

Qureshi was appointed head of the caretaker government on July 18 to hold mid-term elections following the resignations of former president Ghulam Ishaq Khan and prime Minister Nawaz Sharif under an army-brokered settlement to end their bitter power struggle.

There is no ban on Murtaza's return home, Qureshi said. "Any one can come, but they have to face trial and process of court.

Bhutto Says Pressler Amendment Favors India

BK2708141793 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 27 Aug 93 pp 1, 10

[Text] Karachi, Aug 26—Benazir Bhutto, PPP [Pakistan People's Party] co-Chairperson, has said Nawaz Sharif's poplularity in Punjab was a propaganda and a myth which would be exploded on Oct 6.

Ms Bhutto who was interviewed for THE MUSLIM at Bilawal House here, reflected in considerable detail on the domestic and international scene, and said while she wanted Pakistan to be a "model for democracies in the Third World", she sought to mend ties with India and America. But while solution of disputes with Delhi had to be on the basis of honour, she reminded Washington that its Pressler Amendment had in fact provided a "veto in India's hands" and felt that America should "review the law objectively, for it had prevented the sub-continent to record gains in the goal for nuclear non-proliferation."

"I understand the defence expenditures are eating away in the vitals of India and Pakistan, but any unilateral cuts in (Pakistan's) defence are unrealistic. That is why we would like to work for a mutual arms reduction treaty (with India)", she elaborated.

The PPP leader removed the misconception that the party had lost grounds over the years which was evident from its inability to muster the necessary strength in parliament both in 1988 and 1990. She explained that its vote bank had not only remained consistent and intact, it had in fact increased with the passage of time.

The interview was granted on Wednesday [25 August] evening after two days of wait because of the central committee meetings, and negotiations with the Chattha Muslim League.

However, Benazir displaying courtesy, squeezed time out of her hectic schedule to spent some 25 minutes with this correspondent.

Benazir said her party would emerge as the "large single party in the National Assembly, if not with outright majority, and with allies will be able to form a safe majority."

The PPP, she disclosed had surrendered 20 per cent of the national and roughly 30 per cent of the provincial seats in the Punjab, and 2/3rd seats in NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] and Balochistan to those with which it had electoral arrangements.

But she dispelled the impression that the policy of having coalition governments, will weaken stability at home, explaining that coalitions emerged out of necessity. Every time the country suffered from civil or military dictatorships, movements had to start for their overthrow. That brought several parties together which had to share the fruits in the governments also.

Benazir said that late General Zia made ingresses into her party, and only after sometime she realising that the PPP had been "marginalised". The moment the wisdom behind the number game dawned on her, she too had to ingress on others, and weaken their base.

Talking on her biggest adversary, she pointed out that Nawaz Sharif had given nothing to the country but "politics of dictatorship, industrial elite, and big business. He has been responsible for its downward slide into poverty and helplessness."

He not only betrayed Pakistan, but betrayed the people of the Punjab also. He and his cohorts committed the biggest bank robbery in the Third World by looting the money of the orphans, widows, pensioners, the disabled, sepoys etc, in the cooperatives. They gave birth to a big cotton scandal in the Punjab when farmers had to burn their crops after being denied a fair deal because of the lowering of cotton prices. The Tarbela Dam mishandling devastated the lands in the Punjab. The government of Nawaz Sharif was slow to react to ensure remedy to the flood sufferers.

She said she knew that Nawaz Sharif will once again try and play on the sentiments of the Punjabis, by "beating the nationalist drums, but people in Punjab and elsewhere in Pakistan, had seen through him." They can no longer be misled by his propaganda tactles.

To a question whether Nawaz had emerged as champion of the Punjabi cause, and that Punjab wanted a Punjabi Prime Minister, Benazir who had been the country's Prime Minister, reacted coolly to the suggestion. She said "if we begin to think in terms of provincialism, it will be the death knell for Pakistan. There may be small number of people in each province who lacked far sight, believed; in narrow chauvinistic, ethnic themes, but the overall majority of people in each of the federating units of the country, was conscious that their common interest and benefit lay in staying together as a united federation."

"Those striking emotional, parochial chords, should learn from history." Sheikh Mujibur Rehman had raised the slogan of Bengali nationalism (in 1970 elections), promising to pave the streets of Dhaka with gold, and Serbs and Croats in Yugoslavia believed in bagging a similar glitter by promising to drive the Muslims away from Bosnia.

Neither the streets of Dhaka have been paved with gold, nor the streets of Yugoslavia, which in fact were now paved with blood.

The Peoples Party had a national approach. "We believe that every Pakistani is equally dear, whether one is Punjabi, Sindhi Mohajir, Baluch or the Pathan. There are exploiters among us. We want quality but together. We don't want races our politics is not of race", she remarked. [sentence as published]

Answering questions about the role of religion in elections, Benazir replied that time alone will tell us about that. However, she explained that religion had assumed greater role for itself not only in Pakistan, but on all other Muslim countries, and in several other regions of the world.

Religious extremism has risen even in the west. She said westerners often seem baffled you birth of this by phenomenon in Pakistan [sentence as published]. Her reply was that, they themselves had funded billion of dollars in religious parties during the Afghan war. They were naturally better organised financially, and poliltically. These funds made them acquire the scale of improvement.

Ms Bhutto conceded that coming October 5, the fight will be between her party and Nawaz Sharif's, but in later years, it will be a tussle between the PPP, its allies and the Pakistan Islamic Front and other religious parties.

Recalling the 1990 elections, she said that the PPP, in one-to-one contest had polled only 2000 votes less than the conglomerates, which security agents had helped float in the form of Islami Jammboori Ittehad (Nawaz party). That worked out to be 02 per cent of the total votes cast. That obviously gave rise to feelings as to how a party which polled only fractionally lesser number managed just 40 seats, while the IJI had such a majority. This time, she said, "our vote bank will not be as high as before, for the simple reason that the PPP which had contested all the seats in 1970, 1977, 1988 and in 1990, had now parted with a very large number of seats to accommodate its partners in the struggle."

She was questioned closely by her workers as to why those who had opposed it more than once had now been accommodated. She explained to them that while carrying on a struggle against despotic regimes, she had to take people along. This was collecting dues on way, which she had to repay later to these jumping on its bandwagon. [sentence as published] The PPP was paying back its debt to the parties who had helped restore the right of ballot to the people.

Benazir disclosed that the PPP vote bank had also been affected because of the decision to have separate electorate for the minorities. That is why she intended giving the right of double franchise to minorities and the women. They can contest in direct elections, and also be candidates for the special seats reserved for women and the minorities in the lower house of the parliament.

Asked whether personalities would have influence on the voters, or whether the elections will be conducted on party programmes, the PPP leaders replied that personalities, to some degree, symbolise the party programme and themse. The PPP had an agalitarian philosophy, believed in constitution, democracy and in siding with the down troden.

When asked whether there is a trend the world over now to vote for younger leadership, and whether this was her plus point also. Benazir still in her youth, replied that it is not just the generation that mattered the MQM [Muhajir Quami Movement] too had a young leader, and Nawaz Sharif is young also.

The PPP symbolished unity against politics of ethnicity, its appeal lies in popular belief that only a progressive party with elaborate socio-economic programme, can narrow the gap betweensdf rich and the poor. Unless that was done the era of 22 families, ruling the country (in Ayub Khan days), will return with all its disastrous consequences. The PPP believed in keeping the unity of the country.

She said it will be difficult for any country to take a popularly elected government in Pakistan for a ride. America was the only superpower with which Pakistan should have best of relations, not only because of its authority and size, but because of import of defence equipment, the PL—80 wheat, and the exports of Pakistani textiles which is at the heart of the country's economy.

She said she was pained to see Pakistan isolated, and would again like it to play the role of a fulcrum in international relations. It must not side with any country but should help the brotherly Muslim countries to resolve their differences.

Minister States Nuclear Program Frozen at 1990 Level

BK0209094893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] Pakistan has urged the United States to help resolve the Kashmir dispute following the success of the current U.S. mediatory efforts in the Middle East. The foreign secretary, Mr. Shaharyar Khan, who held a meeting with the secretary of state, Mr. Warren Christopher, in Washington, underscored the vital role the United States could play in the resolution of the conflict. He said a settlement of this dispute would contribute to resolution of other problems in the South Asia region and (?lessen) the danger of nuclear proliferation.

Earlier, the foreign secretary met President Clinton's National Security Adviser Mr. Anthony Lake and discussed with him various issues, including nuclear nonproliferation, the Pressler Amendment, and the Kashmir issue.

Later, talking to newsmen, the Pakistan foreign secretary termed Kashmir as the core issue between India and Pakistan, which required a sincere effort to solve it. He said the secretary of state has encouraged the idea of talks between India and Pakistan in an effort to solve the issue. The foreign secretary welcomed the Clinton Administration's decision to adopt an evenhanded policy toward India and Pakistan on nuclear and other issues. Responding to a question, he said Pakistan had frozen its nuclear program at the 1990 level, but had not rolled it back. Pakistan, he said, remained inclined to eventually curtailing the program provided India also did it.

U.S. 'Discrimination' on Nuclear Matters Assailed

BK3008092993 Islamabad THE NATION in English 28 Aug 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Kowtowing Should End"]

[Text] The Limitations of the US desire to play global policeman are revealed from time to time. In our context, US helplessness to either persuade or pressurise India on issues such as nuclear proliferation, the brutal violations of human rights in Kashmir, and now the development of Cruise missiles, more accurate and deadly than its previous weapons the Agni and Prithvi, stands in glaring contrast to the treatment being meted out to Pakistan. Whereas, in the words of caretaker Prime Minister Moin Qureshi, the sanctions imposed on us on the question of receiving components of M-11 missiles from China are "unilateral, arbitrary, unjust and misinformed" since there has been no violation of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), India, which has exploded a nuclear device in 1974, is developing its nuclear capability and delivery systems without let or hindrance (including getting technology for its military nuclear programme from two American companies in violation of US law), and continues the expansion of its huge military machine while crushing the right to self-determination, granted by UN resolutions, of the Kashmiri people, is able to get away with just an expression of US displeasure and the promise of further discussion. Why this discrimination? it is India which during the cold war aligned with the Soviet Union and relied on it for forging the weapons of war which now threaten the security of smaller states in the region. It is India which is in violation of the MTCR. Yet the only sanction India has suffered is the pressure the US was able to bring to bear on Russia not to supply the cryogenic rocket engines which could potentially give India an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile capability. That sanction too, based on the scientific and technical base India has developed over the years with help from the ex-Soviet Union, it is threatening to overcome by the development of cryogenic rocket engines indigenously.

To give the devil his due, India has shown us the image in the mirror which we too should be aspiring towards. For too long we have suffered from a dependent clientist approach to our relations with the US, only to be used when convenient and then discarded like squeezed oranges when the American global or regional agenda changed in conformity with changing American interests. We should remind ourselves once again of the home truth that states do not have permanent friends, only permanent interests. If only we could discard the slavish mentality of always looking to the West, and particularly the US, for our salvation, and learn something from the example of our great neighbour an steadfast friend China, which has rejected any US pressure or bullying, whether on the M-11 issue, China's human rights record, or minor irritations like the affair of the Chinese ship in the Gulf which the US insists is carrying dangerous chemical weapons precursors for Iran, perhaps we too could feel some restored pride and hold our head up high in the comity of nations, instead of always kowtowing to the aggressive pursuit of imperial interests at our expense by countries like the US.

Proliferation Policy 'Flawed'

BK3008120393 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 30 Aug 93 p 1,9

[Editorial: "Moin Qureshi on Nuclear Option]

[Text] Addressing a news conference at Quetta airport Saturday [28 August] afternoon caretaker Prime Minister Mr Moin Qureshi declared that under no circumstances will Pakistan abandon its nuclear programme as it was vital for the country. However, he said, Pakistan was ready to discuss with the United Sates the nuclear and other issues whichs are of importance to the region and have bedevilled Islamabad's relations with Washington.

The caretaker prime minister's categoric assertion on the question of nuclear option has come at a time when new tensions have surfaced in the Pak-US relations because of the American decision to clamp sanctions on Beijing and Islamabad over the missile row and Foreign Secretary Mr Shahryar M Khan has arrived in Washington for wide ranging discussions with administration officials on the ties between the two countries. China has retaliated to the sanctions by threatening to withdraw support from the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR)—a key global arms control agreement—and Pakistan has lodged protest with the US describing Washington's decision as "unjust and misinformed." Any illusions which Washington might have entertained thus far to force Pakistan to unilaterally give up its peaceful nuclear programme must have been belied by the Prime Minister's latest assertion more so as it has been made in response to renewed pressure from Washington on the nuclear issue.

It is good that Mr Moin Qureshi found an occasion to reiterate the country's nuclear policy and set aside doubts and misgivings in the minds of some that the caretakers were out to fulfil an American/World Bank agenda. Some people think that the manner in which the caretakers have unfolded their economic package and are chasing the NARCO dealers they are actually addressing US concerns. They have expressed fears that the nuclear issue being on the top of American agenda in post cold war era the caretakers will succumb to US pressures on it. [sentence as published] Some have feared that Pakistan did not possess the capacity to resist the will of the United States and that sooner or later it will have to take the American line. The Prime Minister's categoric no to abandoning nuclear programme should therefore serve to dispel any lingering doubts about the caretakers alleged weak-kneed response to Washington's nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament agenda.

Pakistan has been the victim of the US ire for the last about three years when President Bush refused to give annual certification regarding the peaceful nature of Pakistan's nuclear programme and invoking the notorious Pressler Law suspended all economic and military assistance to this country. Islamabad has been denied F-16s for which over 600 million dollars have already been paid and is being threatened with losing all the money it has paid so far. Pakistan came very close to being declared a terrorist state and was let off the hook recently only temporarily. And now sanctions have been imposed for a two-year period against both Beijing and Islamabad. If in spite of these pressures successive governments in Islamabad—even including the weak and unrepresentative ones like the caretakers—have vowed to uphold the country's nuclear programme Washington must spare a moment and ask itself 'why'?

Washington must understand that no matter what the pressure and what the inducements, no government in Islamabad can unilaterally give up its nuclear programme because it is a national programme enjoying bipartisan support. No pressures on Pakistan can succeed because all pressure tactics—the Pressler Law et al—are regarded in this country as highly discriminatory, unjust and arbitrary. No pressures and no inducements can work until there is some evenhandedness in Washington's approach towards non-proliferation by bringing India under the same regime. And no pressures will succeed as long as Pakistan feels that its own security and survival is threatened.

The problem with Washington is that it thinks that proliferation can be contained by denying technologies to develoing countries and applying sanctions. This is a flawed perception of the issue. A country determined to make nuclear weapons because of security compulsions and political incentives will ultimately be able to do so no matter how stringent technological embargoes and sanctions against it. When Moin Qureshi said that under no circumstances Pakistan will abandon its nuclear programme he was only restating this obvious fact.

Fighting 'Losing Battle'

BK3108122193 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 27 Aug 93 p 6

[Editorial: "The Super-Power's Super Folly"]

[Text] The United States has done it again. It has now imposed sanctions on China and Pakistan on a charge of violating the missile technology control regime. It is category two sanctions, which seeks to deny to both the countries U.S. items that directly or indirectly help in the missile development. Washington has informed its allies too of the sanctions and expects them to do likewise with similar suppliers to either country.

Of course, the M-11 Missiles alledgely supplied by China to Pakistan does not violate the MTCR as it applies to only missiles with a range of more than 300 kilometres. But the State Department spokesman says the issue is one of capability which implies the M-11 Missiles can be used for longer range as well. Of course, following the objections of the U.S. China and Pakistan very rightly insisted that the M-11 Missiles did not breach the MTCR, but the U.S. as the lone superpower has no time for such objections or explanations. The U.S. could have waited until August 30 when the full range of Pakistan-U.S. relations, including all the disputes, are to be discussed between Pakistan's foreign secretary Sharyar Khan and senior State Department officials in Washington. Evidently the superpower would go its own way majestically and let the lesser states explain later and seek redress.

The U.S. is now doing by itself what it had done in the 1970s and 1980s to stop France supply the agreed nuclear reprocessing plant for which Pakistan had made advance payment. The U.S. did all it could to ensure that other countries did not help Pakistan in building the plant or acquiring nuclear capacity in any manner. The embargo became so extensive that even import of sophisticated textile mill parts was stopped and Pakistan was made to lose heavily on the industrial front as well. And now as a lone superpower the U.S. feels free to dictate to Pakistan even when it has not breached the MTCR and it is India which has been doing that merrily with its Agni and Prithvi missiles. But India is now its ally.

The U.S. does not want China to emerge as a strong power following the break up of the Soviet Union and become a significant arms supplier to third world states. Hence it had taken strong objection to Chinese arms supplies to Iran and Syria as well, but then as Chinese arms are less expensive even Prime Minister Mahatir Mohammad of Malaysia is buying them. So the U.S. is fighting a losing battle. Nevertheless fight it must as old habits die hard and now that it is the lone superpower it finds that it can be even more arbitrary than it has been and impose its will around the world.

When it comes to applying sanctions against small countries the U.S. can be very rough. While it changes its policies it can even refuse to deliver the goods other countries had paid for a long time ago. In this category comes the refusal aircraft for which Pakistan had paid a long time ago 528 million dollars with 870 million dollars more due for payment. The U.S. has not only withheld supply of the F-16s as the U.S. military aid has been suspended but also is charging a good deal of money for storing the planes.

Clearly the U.S. wants neither China to become a major arms supplier nor third world—particularly Muslim countries acquire the kind of military capacity that does not fit in with the U.S. global designs or strategy. And its sensitivity to Iran, Iraq, Syria and Libya acquiring arms has been excessive and unwarranted. It has declared Iraq, Iran and Libya as terrorist states and the latest in this category is Sudan.

Israel can practice any kind of terrorism around the world and against its own Arab people and Arab neighoburs. And the U.S. itself can indulge in the worst forms of terrorism against Iraq, regardless of the number of innocent lives lost through its missile attacks or aerial bombardments. At the same it would not act to check the holocaust in Yugoslavia in the name of ethnic cleansing. The mass killings, gang rape and widespread infanticide there are too ghastly but while the U.S. would make the UN act against Iraq it would hold back the UN in Yugoslavia. President Clinton may mean well in several areas but what matters is the performance of his government and his country which the stronger they come (because of the break-up of the USSR) are weaker in the area of human rights and international justice and it is tending to become most of a bully.

U.S. Pressure on India on Kashmir Urged

BK3008111993 Islamabad THE NATION in English 30 Aug 93 p 6

[Editorial: "After the Sanctions"]

[Text] When the suspicion that the US's sanctions against Pakistan were prompted as much by its displeasure on Pakistan's nuclear programme as by the alleged import of M-11 missiles was voiced by a newsman in the Prime Minister's [PM's] Press conference in Quetta, the PM's response was both forthright and clear. Calling the sanctions unjustified and based on wrong information, he not only asked for their withdrawal but also said that the question of Pakistan abandoning its nuclear programme did not arise. Whether this will persuade the US to reconsider its policy towards Pakistan is, however, another matter. The PM's wish to try to convince the US of the bona fides of Pakistan's policies, howsoever desirable it may be, looks like an uphill task in view of the mindset in the US State Department. There are three clear indications of that. First, that even after it found no evidence of Pakistan's involvement in any terrorist activity, the State Department still wishes to keep it on its watch-list. On the other hand, having solid proof of Indian terrorism in what it acknowledges as the 'disputed' territory of Kashmir, and having itself listed in its report the Congress India's crimes against Kashmiris, India is not on the US watch-list. Second, that even though the US acknowledges that Pakistan's limited nuclear programme is in response to India's far greater capability, and even though it approves of all the proposals made by Pakistan to make South Asia a nuclear-free zone (which India has repeatedly rejected), the US insists on applying the Pressler Amendment against Pakistan. Third, that even though both China and Pakistan have said that transfer of this missile's technology is not violative of the Missile Control Regime, as against India's far more advanced and already tested missile programme, sanctions have been slapped on them. These sanctions may, on the one hand, hurt the US commerce more and on the other encourage China to export even bigger missiles. Someone dealing with this region in the State Department is really not serving, for whatever reason, the US's own long-term interests—the grave harm that the US's one-sided sanctions may otherwise be causing to regional peace not withstanding.

The PM has again asked the US to use pressure against India to solve the Kashmir dispute, which is at the root of all the problems. Pakistan's and India's nuclear programmes, missile programmes, arms race, their wars, are all because of Kashmir. There is really nothing else. But India refuses to listen. If the US is really interested in getting the NPT, the MTCR and all its other laudable ideas observed, bringing Pakistan to heel and letting India flaunt its might, will not do it. The US State Department does not have to look far to find out the real cancer of South Asian peace and does not have to go far to discover who does not want it cured.

Washington's 'Perception of Terrorism' Viewed

BK2708135193 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 26 Aug 93 p 6

[Editorial: "The Farce of Declaring a State as Terrorist"]

[Text] The emergence of the US as the world's sole superpower in the wake of the demise of the Cold War and its perception of the so-called New World Order has made it more like a global policeman than a genuine guarantor of international peace. Last week, Washington declared Sudan a terrorist state thereby automatically clamping series of economic and political punitive measures against Khartoum, Sudan is not the first country, nor will it be the last, to have been declared a terrorist state. Some half a dozen countries including Cuba, Libya, Syria, Iraq, Iran and North Korea have already been declared as terrorist states. Since Nov 1991, Pakistan has been on notice of being declared a terrorist state until it satisfied the US that it was not aiding and abetting armed uprising in occupied Kashmir. Only last month, on July 15 to be precise, Islamabad was cleared of the charge but only temporarily and the spectre of being declared a terrorist state anytime still haunts us.

Under the US law, any country which it decides to believe as supporting violence outside its borders can be declared a terrorist state irrespective of whether the state in question is actually indulging in terrorism or not. Sudan has rebutted the charge of terrorism and so have the others, but who cares? It is Washington alone which determines what constitutes terrorism and which state is sponsoring terrorism outside its boundaries. There is no question of being innocent till proven guilty. The state in question has to provide concrete evidence acceptable to the US State Department that it is not violating American laws in its own territory and that it conforms to Washington's perception of terrorism.

But what actually is terrorism has not been defined by the US. Terrorism undeniably has different meaning to different people. The freedom fighter of one community is a terrorist to another and the hero of one country is a villain in another. There is no well defined criteria to determine the terrorist status of a state. Whatever vague idea exists in the minds of State Department officials, it is applied arbitrarily and whimsically. How else can one explain away the fact that some countries which employ terrorism as an instrument of state policy are the strongest allies of the US let alone being branded as terrorist states. How can one believe in the objectivity of the US Government declaring Sudan or Syria as terrorist states when Israel, with a proven record of terrorism in the Arab world or the Serbian murderers in Bosnia are not considered as terrorists? President Saddam was a hero in Washington as long as he was seen containing the threat of Iranian fundamentalism. But come the end of Cold War and the Iran-Iraq war, Saddam suddenly becomes an international gangster and his country a terrorist state. The Afghans were mujahids and heroes as long as they were fighting the Russians in their own country and were seen advancing US interests to "bleed the Russians white." But when the Cold War ended and the Russians ceased to be a challenge or a threat to Washington, the same Afghans became terrorists in America's eyes and their supporters became collaborators of terrorism.

Washington's definition of terrorism, if any, is vastly different from that of the UN. The United Nations Charter recognises the rights of the oppressed people to fight for their freedom. The US code does not recognise this basic right of a people when the exercise of such right by a people runs counter to American national interests. In the US perception, it seems, any country showing signs of independence and assertiveness is a terrorist country and its leader a terrorist. Washington is seeking to implement its own code and laws and applies its own perceptions in other countries behind the facade of UN principles. If this is what the new international order is, it is bound to be rejected by the world sooner rather than later.

Bleak Prospects for Islamic Parties Foreseen

BK0109143193 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 25 Aug 93 p 10

[Editorial: "The Alliance Between the Islamic Democratic Front and the Islamic Front"]

[Text] The Islamic Front of Qazi Hussain Ahmad and the Islamic Democratic Front comprising parties headed by Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani and Maulana Fazlur Rahman have forged an electoral alliance, and the two fronts have decided to field common candidates in three provinces. There is no doubt that the religious parties have their own vote bank in the country, but the scope of this bank is so limited that no party is in a position to win even a dozen seats from all the four provinces, if the election results of 1970, 1985, 1988, and 1990 are any indicator. There are many reasons for this. The biggest reason is that the nation does not consider our religious scholars suitable for group and power politics. The people also dislike their internecine squabblings. The frustration caused among the Muslims of the Indian subcontinent by certain religious parties and religious scholars opposing the movement for a separate Pakistani nation has also been affecting their influence in the political arena. That is the reason why the religious parties and personalities who have tried to play politics, dissociating themselves from the national political mainstream right from the days of the movement for Pakistan till today, have not reaped any political and electoral benefits, although they may have harmed any national political party. Even the trust [i'timad] of the entire religious parties and personalities cannot achieve the desired results, because the manner in which they have continued to criticize each other up until today and the negative thinking that they have instilled in the minds of their followers by making fiery speeches will not allow supporters of the Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Pakistan to even think of voting in favor of a party associated with the Deoband school of thought. Likewise, the followers of the Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam cannot think of voting for a nonconformist. Thus, the amount of damage done by these religious leaders to the slogan of unity among Muslims cannot be recompensed merely by any temporary alliance and electoral adjustments. It can, however, harm the right-wing political parties.

Since Qazi Hussain Ahmad, Shah Ahmad Noorani and Fazlur Rahman have decided to defeat the Muslim League and Nawaz Sharif at the hustings; they are ready to forge an alliance even with Benazir Bhutto. The election results will reflect the success or otherwise of the alliance between the Islamic Democratic Front and the Islamic Front, but the disappointment that the politically sensible followers of these religious fronts will suffer can be assessed even now.

Sanctions Said Blocking Islamic Forces

BK3008094393 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 28 Aug 93 p 4

[Text] Lahore, Aug 27—The Pakistan Islamic Front [PIF] chief, Qazi Hussain Ahmad, has said that the US sanctions against Pakistan at this stage were basically meant to pressurise the interim government to block the way of the Islamic forces in the upcoming elections but the people of this country would frustrate the American designs.

He was talking to different delegations at Mansoora on Friday [27 August].

Qazi Hussain Ahmad said the US decision should be an eye-opener for the American lobby in Pakistan. The interim government, he said, had completely accepted the US hegemony while Mian Nawaz Sharif and Ms Benazir Bhutto were also not expected to annoy the Americans.

He maintained that Pakistan at this juncture needed a leadership that could not be cowed down by the US pressure tactics and refuse to sell out our national interests.

The PIF chief said that both Mian Nawaz Sharif and Ms Benazir Bhutto had lost their nerves on the fear of disqualification of most their candidates. Their failure to bring forth an honest and clean leadership proved that neither of these parties had possessed a team of sincere, dedicated and selfless people to serve the nation. Led by feudals lords and capitalists, both these parties were cut off from the poor masses and not a single of their candidates was from the poor.

He said the masses had by now realised fully that all the socioeconomic evils in this country were the creation of the feudal-cum-capitalist mentality of these politicians who had been ruling this country so far.

He alleged that the caretaker government was not conversant with the national affairs and the problems of our people. He said the recent price hike amounted to slaughtering the nation.

New TV Program To Present Political Party Programs

BK3108034693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] The government has decided to start a special Urdu-language television program beginning the first week of September so that political parties can present their manifesto and programs to the people. In an interview with APP, Nisar Ahmad, federal information and broadcasting minister, said this program will be presented under the name Election-R between 2130 and 2230 [1630 and 1730 GMT]. The program is premiering close to the elections to establish strong links between the leaders of political parties and the people. The information minister said 22 political parties have been invited to participate in the program. So far 11 parties have responded, while the rest have agreed in principle to participate in the program.

Editorial Views Recent Economic Policy Decisions

BK3108141593 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 31 Aug 93 p 7

[Editorial: "Foreign trade: New Policy Measures"]

[Text] Responding to the reaction and the demand from the business community, the caretaker government has taken two major economic policy dicisions. Both incidentally relate to the area of foreign trade. One of them is to postpone the application of reduced export rebates which were to become effective from September 1, 1993. The other is the withdrawal of 30 percent cash margin on letters of credit. Since the total turnover of foreign trade is around 15 billion dollars, these decisions encompass a wide range of economic activity. As both importers were disturbed over the cash margin on letters of credit and exporters felt that the reduction in rebates would adversely affect exports, the revision of policy measures in this behalf had become somewhat compelling.

In view of very high monetary expansion at 22 percent, it was decided to impose 30 percent cash margin on all letters of credit. The government expected that this would slow down monetary expansion and also discourage imports of non-essential items. On its part, importers felt that this would put additional burden on their cash flows, creating serious day-to-day financial problems for them. They had been urging the government to review this condition insisting that it was gravely hurting business activity. In the meantime, the government initiated new measures to control excessive monetary expansion putting limits on government borrowing, on the one hand, and moving to recover outstanding loans on the other. The devaluation of the rupee by ten percent will act as a device to curb unnecessary imports. With the cash margin on letters of credit removed, the problem being faced by the business community has been resolved.

As for the rebates, exporters felt that their reduction by half had considerably blunted their competitive edge which the devaluation had given to exportable commodities. They argued that the rebate reduction would result in slow growth of exports, which had already been negative last year. In fact, the growing trade imbalance necessitated some new export promotion measures and a more determined effort on the part of exporters to push exports during the course of the current financial year. The whole issue of duty drawbacks is now under consideration and the government may come out with a new policy framework which should help in encouraging exports. The mark-up rates on export refinance had also been raised to have looked into it favourably.

With the balance of payments having come under some severe strain last year, it is imperative that policy measures are geared to reduce the large trade gap. While devaluation of the rupee and phasing out of some of the development projects may reduce the demand for imports, the need for export acceleration remains pressing. The government may have to be particularly watchful of the export of cotton, yarn and cotton products which fetch 60 percent of our foreign exchange earnings. It is also necessary that exports of leather and leather goods, carpets, surgical and sports goods are also speeded up. As the international recession continues, the foreign trade imbalance can only be reduced by exploring new markets and promoting exports of non-traditional items. Foreign trade is one area where the policy response ought to be timely and adequate.

Sri Lanka

Heavy Casualties Reported in Navy-LTTE Clashes

'Major' Battle in Jaffna Lagoon

BK2708112793 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] Heavy casualties were reported in a major battle between the Sri Lanka Navy and the LTTE's [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam's] sea tigers in the Jaffna Lagoon on Wednesday night [25 August]. Security sources told LANKAPUVATH that according to first reports, several sea tiger's seacraft have been destroyed and a large number of terrorists killed or wounded, while the Navy lost one patrol boat and another was captured. An officer and four sailors were killed and five wounded in the Jaffna Lagoon at the Kilali crossing. The bodies of the dead naval personnel were later recovered. Air support was called in and helicopters and fighter bombers joined in the attack on the sea tigers.

LTTE Sinks Gunboat; 12 Killed

BK2908113593 Hong Kong AFP in English 1104 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] COLOMBO, Aug 29 (AFP)—Tamil Tiger guerrillas Sunday [29 August] carried out a suicide attack and destroyed an Israeli-built gunboat off Sri Lanka's northern Jaffna peninsula, killing all 12 navy personnel aboard, the military said.

An explosives laden small craft belonging to the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rammed the Israeli-built Dovra-class gunboat just off the island's northernmost Point Pedro coast, military officials said.

"The are no survivors to know exactly what happened. But from what he have seen by air it is obvious that a Tiger suicide team rammed the gunboat. Attempts are being made to either salvage the wreck or completely destroy it.

"The Tigers cannot match the firepower of a Dovra so it looks like the terrorists pretended to be fishermen in distress and lured the Dovra close to them and then set off explosives," a defence source said.

Tiger guerrillas are also believed to have removed two 50 caliber and two 22 millimeter guns from the navy craft. The bodies of the navy victims are also believed to have been taken away by Tiger reinforcements.

Four navy lieutenants were among the victims.

It was not immediately clear how many Tigers were involved in the daring day time suicide attack in mid-ocean off Point Pedro. A joint navy and airforce operation was on Sunday to either salvage the wreck or destroy it completely.

The latest attack against the navy came barely three days after the guerrillas sank a navy patrol craft and crippled another during a gunbattle in the Jaffna lagoon, leaving nine sailors dead.

It also came as security forces lifted curfews in Jaffna peninsula and the neighbouring Kilinochchi regions after completing three limited operations against Tiger positions.

In separate incidents one officer was killed as a result of LTTE sniper fire at Elephant Pass while in Tellippalai and and Pooneryn security forces encountered some resistance but did not suffer any losses.

Troops mounted the three simultaneous operations Saturday to clear LTTE positions located just outside the forward defence lines of the military inside the Tiger stronghold of the Jaffna peninsula, the military said.

"We cleared observation posts, fox holes and destroyed other facilities used by terrorists to harass our camps. One officer was killed as a result of Tiger sniper fire at Elephant Pass," a military officer said.

Tiger guerrillas are battling to establish an independent Tamil homeland in the island's northern and eastern regions where the two million Tamil minority is concentrated. Thousands have died in bitter fighting.

Naval, Air Strikes on LTTE Targets

BK0209111493 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] Navy gunboats fired and destroyed a suspected Tamil Tiger craft that was probably heading for a suicide attack against a patrol craft in the north. The military said that the Navy opened fire at the boat suspected to belong to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] as it was speeding toward a Navy hydro-jet late on Tuesday. A military officer said that they thought the terrorists were trying to launch another suicide attack against the navy patrol craft. They have information that they killed Sea Tiger Captain (Seyadu).

Meanwhile, travelers from the terrorist-held northern Jaffna peninsula reported stepped-up air strikes in the region and said at least four civilians were killed in two of the attacks on Monday. The military has acknowledged the intensified air attacks, but said they have bombed only predetermined LTTE targets.

Navy Mistakenly Destroys Indian Trawler

BK0209114093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1105 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] Colombo, Sept 2 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan navy mistakenly destroyed an Indian trawler and killed one fisherman Thursday [2 September] in northern seas where Tamil rebels have staged suicide attacks, the military admitted.

A navy gunboat sank the fishing trawler Muthukumar off Point Pedro, where the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) on Sunday rammed an explosives-laden boat into a navy fast attack craft, killing 12 sailors.

"The navy thought it was another suicide mission. They couldn't afford to take chances," a military spokesman said. "The navy opened fire and one fisherman succumbed to his injuries. But the other three crew members were rescued."

He said the three men, all Indian nationals, were being treated at a hospital in the island's northern Jaffna peninsula and the authorities here were in contact with the Indian High Commission (embassy).

Indian diplomats here said they were seeking help from authorities in the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu to establish the identity of the three fishermen, being held by Sri Lankan military authorities.

Sri Lanka has accused the LTTE of mingling with Indian fishermen to carry out attacks against security forces in the island's embattled northern and eastern provinces.

India and Sri Lanka are separated by a narrow strip of sea and fishermen from the two countries are known to stray into each others' territorial waters.

Following Sunday's attack at Point Pedro the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) suspended relief operations at a strategic pier there, seriously affecting food supplies to Jaffna.

The ICRC is demanding assurances from the LTTE that the Point Pedro region would not be used to stage attacks against security forces before reestablishing their presence at the pier, the military has said.

The bulk of government supplies are sent to the LTTE-held Jaffna peninsula via Point Pedro with the ICRC acting as a conduit. The LTTE is leading a protracted war to establish an independent homeland for Sri Lanka's minority of two million ethnic Tamils.

Colombo Reports 'Power Struggle' Within LTTE

BK0109113493 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] A power struggle is on in the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] and terrorist leader Velupillai Prabhakaran is being openly challenged by former deputy Mahendraraja alias Mahattaya and Political Wing Secretary Dilip Yogi. Security sources say that according to intelligence reports, Mahattaya—a well-built 6-footer—and Yogi have openly called for LTTE to lay down arms and seek a peaceful settlement with the Sri Lankan government. The two most senior cadres next to Prabhakaran have pointed out the futility of continuing the senseless campaign of terror in view of the fact that the number of LTTE's original demands have already been granted by the government. They were reported to have told Prabhakaran that LTTE had lost all political credibility—both locally and internationally—and was now classified as a purely criminal terrorist organization. Mahattaya and Yogi have pointed out to their leader that the people of the north, particularly Jaffna, have undergone untold hardships and misery long enough. They are now fed up with the LTTE's intransigence, but do not openly express their views due to fear. According to intelligence reports, Mahattaya has been placed under high security detention along with 200 terrorists supporting him, while Yogi's whereabouts are not known.

Successful Earnings From 1992 Tourism Detailed

BK3108130793 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Nineteen ninety-two had been a successful year for the tourist industry. According to the annual statistical report for 1992 issued by the Ceylon Tourist Board, the revenue earned from tourism in the year amounted to 443.7 million rupees. In the previous year, it was only 234.8 million rupees. The highest revenue was earned through the embarkation tax which amounted to 177 million rupees. This was followed by 102 million rupees earned by the Cultural Triangle. The report says that the total employment opportunity generated in the tourist industry during 1992 was a little over 59,000. Tourist arrivals in that year was in the region of 394,000 as against 318,000 in 1991.